



Labor

STATE CONFERENCE 2014
PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

POLICY & AGENDA COMMITTEE REPORT

CONFERENCE POLICY AND AGENDA COMMITTEE REPORT

Introduction

The Conference Policy and Agenda Committee was established following a rules change at the 2012 Annual State Conference. The Committee is responsible for setting the agenda of the Conference, as well as making recommendations to the Conference regarding policy items that have been submitted.

The Committee formed the following nine sub-committees to draft recommendations for the submitted motions

- A Healthy Society
- Australia and the World
- Building Sustainable Communities
- Country Labor
- Education and Skills
- Indigenous People and Reconciliation
- Our Economic Future
- Prosperity and Fairness at Work
- Stronger Democracy and Social Justice

A Healthy Society

The previous Federal Labor Government had many achievements in health policy. The Committee wishes to recognise the work undertaken by the former Government, particularly Health Ministers Nicola Roxon and Tanya Plibersek. Labor can be proud of its record, including the National Health Reform Agreement, the Preventative Health Taskforce, cigarette plain packaging, the Living Longer – Living Better plan and the rollout of the eHealth system.

Unfortunately, the election of the Abbott Coalition Government has put these achievements at risk. We have already seen \$50 billion ripped from the health system, which could see over 300 hospital beds closed in NSW alone.

The universality of Medicare is at stake with the introduction of an up-front fee for patients when they see a GP. This co-payment will remove the incentives to take preventative health actions. The Doctors Reform Society, AMA, ANMF, College of GPs and eminent health economists are all in opposition to the GP co-payment system.

This comes on top of the NSW Liberal Government's \$3 billion cut to the State's health system. These cuts have had a direct impact on staff numbers and have resulted in a blowout in hospital emergency wait times.

The Committee congratulates NSW Labor Leader John Robertson and Shadow Minister for Health, Andrew McDonald for their work in highlighting the impact of these cuts.

Discussions were had about a number of items. The Committee discussed an item in relation to more medically-supervised injecting rooms. It is important to recognise the previous Labor Government decision to make the facility in Kings Cross permanent and its success in achieving its goals. A motion was also submitted by the Surry Hills branch calling for a financial supplement to HIV patients. The Committee believes that the very best support must be provided to HIV patients. The Federal Shadow Minister Jenny Macklin is currently leading a review into Federal Labor's social policies, and this item should be referred to this process in the lead up to the next National Conference.

Australia and the World

Labor has a proud history when it comes to foreign policy – Curtin's leadership during World War Two and building relations with the United States, Evatt's role in the establishment of the United Nations, Whitlam's recognition of China, Hawke's role in defeating apartheid and Keating's leadership in forming APEC.

Conference recognises the achievements of the former Federal Labor Government in building on this legacy. The withdrawal of Australian troops from Iraq, the release of the Asian Century White Paper and the successful campaign to win a seat on the United Nations Security Council are but some of the many achievements from our six years in office.

The Committee pays tribute to Labor's Ministers for Foreign Affairs over this period, Stephen Smith, Kevin Rudd and Bob Carr.

The Committee notes that the vast majority of policy motions received from Party units relate to the Middle East. The Committee recognises the fact that there is no easy solution to this issue. Labor supports the 'two-state solution' achieved through a negotiated settlement.

Building Sustainable Communities

With our population expected to increase significantly over the coming decades, NSW Labor must continue to recognise the importance of sustainable communities for all people in society.

At the forefront of this must be tackling the challenge of climate change. The Committee received a number of motions recognising the achievements of the former Federal Labor Government in legislating a price of carbon. The Committee would like to recognise the work by the former Minister for Climate Change, Greg Combet.

The Committee congratulates the position taken by the FPLP to continue supporting a market-based mechanism to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, despite pressure from our opponents to change position.

It is also important to note a number of motions that were received in relation to a second Sydney airport. The Committee notes the position taken by John Robertson to support a Western Sydney airport provided the following conditions are met

- A curfew on flights the same as Kingsford Smith Airport;
- Passenger services allow locals to use the new airport for their holidays and business trips;
- The completion of major road and rail links before the airport opens;
- There is community consultation including an updated Environment Impact Statement; and
- A jobs, industry and skills development plan for Western Sydney is implemented.

It is concerning that the Abbott Government has so far failed to meet these conditions. The potential economic benefits and new jobs created by this project are essential and supported by Labor. Labor stands for jobs, growth and local communities.

The Committee has also received a number of motions from Party units expressing opposition to coal seam gas mining. The Committee recognises the work of the State Parliamentary Labor Party on this issue, in particular its call for a moratorium until an independent scientific investigation takes place.

Country Labor

The Coalition has taken country NSW for granted. It was evident from the policy motions submitted from Party units that rural and regional Australia has suffered from the State Government's cuts to services and the failure of National Party MPs to stand up for their electorates.

Thank you to the Country Labor Committee for assisting in making its recommendations.

Education and Skills

The Abbott Government's continuing unprecedented attacks on education at every level means that there is now a very clear distinction between Labor and the Coalition, at both State and Federal levels.

Foremost in this attack is the withdrawal of the universal support for a Needs Based Funding Formula for all schools. This universal approach was a position taken by the major political parties to the 2013 Federal Election. Labor fought for and developed the Gonski model, which received overwhelming support from both the community and from the majority of State governments. Within its first year, the Abbott government has rapidly retreated to the Coalition's former position, which will entrench inequity once again.

The attacks on the provision of skills training by TAFE and the withdrawal of allowances, such as the cost of tools for apprentices, give Labor a unique opportunity to position itself as the champion of vocational education at a time when the mining boom is receding and all experts are saying that Australia's workforce needs re-skilling.

The deregulation of funding and fees in universities, along with the demise of the tertiary infrastructure spend, and the increased rate of interest charged on student loans, are other areas where Labor can make a clear distinction between itself and the Coalition.

Labor can also make significant political gain in areas such as Science and Research Funding where the Abbott government

appears to be deliberately attempting to ‘dumb down’ public debate on crucial issues such as the Environment and Climate Change. They have withdrawn funding from Australia’s leading research organisation, the CSIRO, abolished many advisory boards, and announced the closure of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, and have not appointed a Minister for Science.

We note the motion from The Entrance SEC concerning the selective Gosford High School and would reiterate that it has been long standing Labor Policy that the “one-size fits all” model is not appropriate and that there are many models of secondary school structures across the state in both the public and private sector. Selective High Schools are but one of these.

Indigenous Peoples and Reconciliation

Twenty years have passed since the Native Title Act commenced operation. It is important to reflect upon what has been achieved in that time, but also to consider what more needs to be done to achieve reconciliation and improve the quality of life for Indigenous Australians.

While Labor can be proud that the former Federal Labor Government made an apology to the Stolen Generations, it is important to recognise that this is only the beginning in the process of reconciliation. Constitutional recognition of Indigenous peoples as the first Australians, must be a priority for parties of all political persuasions.

The Committee thanks Party units and affiliates for their motions on this topic. The Committee has recommended that support be given to motions calling for justice reinvestment to reduce the incarceration rate of young Indigenous people, as well as measures to protect Aboriginal culture and heritage.

Our Economic Future

Australia is in its 23rd year of continuous economic growth. The success of the Australian economy is not due to luck or good fortune.

The former Federal Labor Government’s economic management during the Global Financial Crisis ensured that we were one of only three advanced economies out of 34 to avoid recession.

As the Nobel Prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz said of Australia

“You were lucky to have, probably, the best designed stimulus package of any of the countries, advanced industrial countries, both in size and in design, timing and how it was spent - and I think it served Australia well during the global recession...”

That package was delivered early, with cash grants that could be spent quickly followed by longer-term investments that buoyed confidence and activity over time. In many other countries, stimulus was too small and arrived too late, after jobs and confidence were already lost.

In Australia the stimulus helped avoid a recession and saved up to 200,000 jobs. And new research shows that stimulus may have actually reduced government debt over time.

Evidence from the crisis suggests that, when the economy is weak, the long-run tax revenue benefits of keeping businesses afloat and people in work can be greater than the short-run expenditure on stimulus measures. That means that a well-targeted fiscal stimulus might actually reduce public debt in the long run.”

When Federal Labor left office in September 2013, Australia had a Triple A credit rating from all three ratings agencies, unemployment was relatively low by global comparisons and our GDP per capita, which is the real measure of prosperity, rose from a ranking of 17th to eighth in the world.

Labor has an economic record of which we can be proud and we must vigorously defend it.

We must learn from the mistakes made after the 1996 election when Labor walked away from our economic record and allowed ourselves to be defined by the attacks of our opponents.

Indeed, we have already seen the Liberals change economic assumptions to exaggerate the size of the deficit and create a false “budget emergency.” The Coalition has then used this as justification to make deep cuts, particularly to health, education and pensions, which undermine the very fabric of Australian society.

This same tactic was used by Mike Baird. Following the 2011 Election, he falsely concocted a budget black hole to justify his \$3 billion cuts to health and \$1.7 billion cuts to schools and TAFE.

The Committee notes that this Conference will be held against the backdrop of a public debate about the NSW Coalition’s proposed sale of 49 percent of the State’s electricity distribution network. Labor opposes the sale.

NSW Labor Leader John Robertson has made Labor's position on this issue clear:

- This will mean higher electricity prices driving up the cost of living; and
- NSW will lose \$1 billion in revenue from dividends each year.

The Committee notes there was some discussion about fiscal and taxation policy in response to motions submitted from some Party units. The majority of the Committee was of the view that motions calling for an increase in tax revenue and for an increase in state borrowings should be rejected. Labor supports a fair and disciplined taxation regime which provides appropriate revenues to fund quality services for the people of NSW.

Indeed, the best way to increase tax revenue is to get more people into work. Members of the Committee expressed concern at the stubbornly high levels of unemployment in parts of NSW, especially youth unemployment. The State Liberal Government's cuts to TAFE will simply make this problem worse by denying young people will a pathway to improve their skills. Labor stands for jobs, growth and opportunity for economic progression for all in our communities.

Prosperity and Fairness at Work

With the conservatives in power at both a State and Federal level, the labour movement must be vigilant against attacks on the rights of working people. We have already seen the NSW Coalition attack workers with a wage freeze on public sector pay, cuts to workers compensation and the sacking of over 15,000 public servants. Federally, the Coalition has already foreshadowed plans to cut penalty rates and bring back draconian policies such as the ABCC.

The Committee received a number of important motions from Party units and affiliates that call for changes to improve the rights of working people across NSW. Many of these motions are a response to the unfair policies of the NSW Coalition and the Committee recognises the statements from NSW Labor Leader John Robertson to address these concerns when Labor next wins Government.

The Committee also recognises the successful campaigns that have been run by trade unions across the country which have received the support of Party units and Members of Parliament. This includes the SDA's 100 per cent pay at 18 campaign, United Voice's Big Steps campaign and the TWU's safe rates campaign.

Stronger Democracy and Social Justice

The pursuit of social justice is at the heart of the labour movement. Party members can look back with pride at the achievements of the former Federal Labor Government. Federal Labor introduced the National Disability Insurance Scheme, amended 85 Commonwealth laws to remove discrimination against same-sex couples and implemented an historic increase in the age pension. Congratulations are extended to all those Ministers who were responsible for these important reforms.

Following Federal Labor's defeat, there is now the very real threat that the Abbott Government will unwind our achievements. There is no better example than the proposal to amend Section 18C of the Anti-Discrimination Act. Contrary to any suggestion from the Attorney-General, individuals do not have the right to be bigots.

At the 2013 Federal Election, the Liberal Party was very effective at winning the support of migrant communities across Sydney. The proposed changes to Section 18C are a complete "slap in the face" to these communities. Labor must continue to oppose this proposal in the strongest possible terms and recommit ourselves to the values of multiculturalism.

The Committee recognises the significant number of policy motions that were submitted by Party units and affiliates in relation to asylum seekers. The Committee supports the position adopted by the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party at its meeting on June 17 2014. This motion is included.

However, some members of the Committee argued in support of a motion that was unsuccessfully moved in the Federal Caucus:

1. Caucus notes

- (i) *The killing of Iranian asylum seeker Reza Berati and the injuries done through violence to many others at the detention centre on Manus Island in February 2014 for which no person(s) has yet been held responsible.*
- (ii) *The decision by the AFP not to investigate the above events and the government's failure to request that PNG authorities allow AFP involvement in the investigation.*
- (iii) *Reports of inhumane, unsafe and completely unsatisfactory conditions for asylum seekers detained on Manus Island and Nauru.*
- (iv) *The lack of independent oversight of conditions for asylum seekers detained on Manus Island and Nauru.*

- (v) *The lack of processing of asylum claims on Manus Island and Nauru, with the consequence that asylum seekers are left in a state of uncertainty, fear and severe anxiety.*

2. *Caucus observes that these circumstances*

- (i) *Violate Australia's obligations under the UN Refugee Convention and other human rights treaties, and*
- (ii) *Are inconsistent with the ALP National Platform commitment (Ch.9, para 156) to "treat people seeking our protection with dignity and compassion and in accordance with our international obligations and core Australian principles of fairness and humanity".*

3. *In light of the above, Caucus decides that the Labor Opposition shall no longer support the transfer of asylum seekers by Australia to Manus Island or Nauru and shall call for the detention centres in those places to be closed down forthwith.*

The Committee also received a number of policy items on the topic of mandatory sentencing. This issue became a topic of community discussion earlier this year when the Coalition introduced laws in response to alcohol fuelled violence. It is important to note that the State Parliamentary Labor Party moved amendments to replace all the mandatory sentences proposed by the Government with a single offence of reckless grievous bodily harm when intoxicated in public and in circumstances of gross violence.

The Committee also congratulates NSW Labor Leader John Robertson and the State Caucus for taking the lead on responsible policies to tackle the scourge of alcohol fuelled violence. NSW Labor took leadership on this issue and the Coalition was forced to respond.

A healthy and robust debate took place amongst members of the Committee on a number of issues. In addition to the discussions noted earlier on asylum seekers, the Committee debated the merits of any mandatory sentencing, religious exemptions to the Anti-Discrimination Act, the position of NSW delegates to the next National Conference on marriage equality, and reform of the welfare system.

Platform Amendments

The Committee has recommended that a number of amendments be made to the Party's platform in response to items submitted by Party units and affiliates. The Platform Committee has drafted proposed amendments for the consideration of the Conference.

Conclusion

Good policy comes from debate and discussion. Policies such as Medicare, superannuation and the NDIS were not invented overnight, but resulted from many years of discussion and research by people within the Party.

For Labor to win the next State and Federal election, and to then be successful in Government, we must use our time in Opposition to develop good policies that build on our proud achievements. Party units and affiliates must be encouraged to take part in this process. The Party should also reach out to progressive think tanks like the McKell Institute and Per Capita to develop new ideas.

The Policy and Agenda Committee is not necessarily the best vehicle to drive this.

The Committee notes the proposal by the Rules Committee to replace the Policy and Agenda Committee with a number of standing policy committees. This is a welcome proposal.

Standing policy committees offer a larger number of Party members the opportunity to utilise their expertise and interest in specific policy areas, and to assist the State and Federal Parliamentary Labor parties to develop detailed policy proposals.

These committees should be empowered to consult widely, to hold forums with Party units and to work closely with Shadow Ministers (and eventually Ministers) to develop the policies that will build on Labor's proud legacy as the Party of equality, opportunity and fairness.

A HEALTHY SOCIETY

PLATFORM AMENDMENTS

1. ERSKINEVILLE BRANCH / GLEBE BRANCH

Under the heading Promoting a Healthy Society, at paragraph 6.34 on page 33, after the dot point “Promote universal participation in sports... supportive environment for all children” add new dot point “Promote universal participation in sports by supporting all sporting codes and competitions to adopt policies which actively tackle homophobia/ discrimination on the basis on sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status, and which encourage the involvement of LGBTI people.”

Recommendation: Insert new dot point in 6.34 after the dot point “Promote universal participation in sports...for all children”:

- **Encourage all sporting codes and competitions to adopt policies which actively tackle discrimination of any kind and which encourage the involvement of everyone in sports and other physical recreation.**

2. YOUNG LABOR

Relevant National Curriculum to Curb Binge Drinking

Preamble

Drug and alcohol awareness is an important issue that affects young people. Approximately 90% of young people have tried alcohol by the age of 14. Furthermore 80% alcohol consumed by people between ages 14 – 24 is consumed in ways that put the drinker's health at risk.

School curriculums play an important role in teaching young people practical real world skills. Different health and personal development syllabus' have taught a variety of different approaches to drugs and alcohol that usually centre around abstinence. Despite a compulsory high school syllabus, In 2007, almost 1 in 10 people over 14 drank at levels considered risky or high risk to health.

In 2012 the Victorian government announced that it would abolish the “Just Say No” curriculum in favour of a Labor initiative which taught students to practice first aid for overdoses, pour standard drinks, and study drug-free ways to achieve a “high”. Trials of the harm-reduction syllabus have shown that young people are more likely to discuss drug and alcohol issues with their parents or older people and will be monitored to see the effects on incidents of binge drinking.

Platform

(a) NSW Labor recognises that binge drinking and drug

use is a growing health concern for young people in Australia.

(b) NSW Labor supports changes to the national curriculum to encourage harm-reduction teaching instead of abstinence.

Recommendation: Refer point (a) to existing platform item 6.29. Refer point (b) to National Conference.

A HEALTHY SOCIETY

AGENDA ITEMS

1. ADAMSTOWN BRANCH

Conference calls for the provision of a network of publicly accessible defibrillators and a cardiac arrest registry. Conference understands that such a network has been provided in the US State of Seattle and that as a result, 48% of their out-of-hospital cardiac arrest victims survive compared with only 10% of such victims in NSW.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

2. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Funding for Family Planning Association

Conference recognises the vital work done by the Family Planning Association (FPA) in providing high quality, professional education, clinical services and advocacy in the area of reproductive health for men and women in NSW.

Conference notes that the work of the FPA is particularly important in regional and remote areas, where health services are often difficult to access, expensive and lack privacy. These are particularly issues for vulnerable and disadvantaged women, including the young, the poor and women from indigenous and non-English speaking backgrounds.

Labor in opposition and in government will work to ensure adequate funding for the FPA to continue its current programs and to expand its outreach education and clinical services, particularly to regional and remote locations.

Recommendation: Support.

3. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Funding for NSW Workers Health Centre

Established by trade unions and progressive health professionals in 1976, the Workers Health Centre is Australia's oldest and only remaining not for profit workers health and safety and return to work service.

It has centres in western Sydney and the Hunter and provides mobile clinics in the central west and Illawarra.

The Centre provides services including injury management and return to work programs for injured workers, workplace health and safety assessment and training, healthy workplace programs, psychological counselling, audiology and clinical services. The Centre also supports the NSW Injured Workers Support Network.

The Workers Health Centre provides a vital service to individual workers and their families, trade unions, government departments, local councils and community organisations.

Given the attacks on workers compensation and dilution of workplace health and safety legislation under state and federal coalition governments, the Centre has become particularly important as an advocate for injured workers and their families and a source of policy development around WH&S and workers compensation.

As a testament to its effectiveness, the Workers Health Centre has been advised that after almost 40 years it will be defunded by the NSW State Government.

That this Conference recognises the important services provided by the Workers Health Centre. In particular we congratulate the Centre for its role in educating and advocating on behalf of NSW workers and their families.

That Labor in Opposition will take whatever measures are available to support the Workers Health Centre and oppose its defunding by the NSW state Government.

That Labor in opposition will work to ensure that the Workers Health Centre continues to receive adequate funding from the state government.

That Labor in government will reinstate proper funding for the NSW Workers Health Centre as a matter of priority in its first term of government.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

4. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Support for more Medically Supervised Injecting Facilities in NSW

Conference recognises the success of the Medically Supervised Injecting Facility in Kings Cross, which is the only one of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and received bi-partisan support for its establishment from the NSW State Government.

NSW Labor recognises the health and economic benefits of a Harm Reduction approach to illicit drug use in New South Wales.

1. Labor in opposition and in government will support a second Medically Supervised Injecting Room in NSW
2. Labor will conduct a consultation with health professionals and the operators of the Kings Cross Medically Supervised Injecting Centre to determine an appropriate location for the new Centre.

Recommendation: Delete the heading and points 1 and 2. Conference notes the previous Labor Government's decision to make the facility in Kings Cross permanent and its success in achieving its goals.

5. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Conference recognises that research has shown that where effective programs can support Australians to live healthier - without overly reducing choice, access or equity - we live longer, better lives. Preventative health measures that limit our intake of un-healthy foods, or provide incentives to improve diet and lifestyle will reduce the burden on the health system.

Labor in opposition and in government will support funding for programs designed to increase access to healthy lifestyle and diet options should be supported and funded by governments of all levels.

Recommendation: Support.

6. MACQUARIE FEC

That Conference expresses its great concern about the current discussion by the Federal Government with adding charges to Medicare. While Conference appreciates the enormous costs of medical care, we believe that the mark of a civilised and caring society is the ability of citizens to access quality medical care without financial duress, and thus Medicare is worth fighting for.

Recommendation: Support.

7. NEWCASTLE FEC

Conference supports the struggle to keep Stockton Centre open for those high care residents who currently live there.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

8. STOCKTON BRANCH

Conference supports the struggle to keep Stockton Centre open for those high care residents who currently live there.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

9. STOCKTON BRANCH

Conference recommends that Labor consider a policy of giving one free parking pass to each family when a family member is a patient in a public hospital for an extended time.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

10. SURRY HILLS BRANCH

Human Immunodeficiency Virus has claimed the lives of 6,843 people since its emergence in Australia in the early 1980's. Today there are around 30,000 people living with HIV mainly because of advances in the treatment of the virus. HIV is now being commonly acknowledged by many in the medical profession as a manageable chronic disease. Whilst HIV is now manageable it can often lead to individuals living in financial insecurity because of the amount of medication that is required to be taken on a daily basis, for the foreseeable

future. This is a particular problem for HIV patients receiving Centrelink payments who are required to pay a gap payment for each prescription they require, which often leads them to have to seek assistance from charities like the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation or falling into poverty.

Conference moves that the NSW Labor adopts a policy of providing financial supplement payments to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) patients who receive a welfare payment and require more than one medication to manage their health. This supplement will help to offset the cost of the "gap payments" that are required to be paid when individuals collect their medication from Hospital Pharmacies or approved Highly Specialised Drug Pharmacies.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference and the review into Federal Labor's social policy led by Shadow Minister Jenny Macklin.

11. TUMBI UMBI BRANCH

It should be a signature policy platform of the ALP to restore Medicare as articulated by previous Labor Governments. The Federal Opposition should undertake the strongest measures possible to reinstate the Medicare system.

Recommendation: Support.

12. THE HILLS BRANCH

Conference strongly condemns the Abbott Government's attack on Medicare and the creation of a two-tiered health system.

Recommendation: Support.

13. WAGGA WAGGA BRANCH

Organ Donation - Moving to an Opt-Out Policy

It is estimated that at any one time 1500 people are on the organ donation waiting list (Organ and Tissue Authority). In 2013 NSW had the second lowest organ donation rates in Australia and has only in 2012 moved to adopt the national organ donation registry.

It is to be commended that in recent years there has been an improvement to the processes for organ donation and subsequently organ donation rates through the introduction of a national organ donation registry, campaigns to discuss organ donation choices with family, and the increase in the capacity for health professionals and hospitals to increase clinical capacity and capability for organ donation. Despite the increase in donation rates there is currently one of significant barrier to decreasing the waiting list, that being the "opt-in" policy.

Within Australia people are presumed to not want to donate their organs despite about 75% of Australians supporting organ donation (National Community Awareness Survey, Woolcott Research 2013). In 2012 the NSW Liberal

Government released the Government Plan titled Increasing Organ Donation in NSW, in which it explicitly states that it would continue with the “opt-in” policy with no reasoning behind this decision.

To further increase the donation rates, the Wagga Wagga Labor Branch is proposing the NSW ALP support the move to an “opt-out” policy in regards to organ donation. This proposal focuses solely on the opt-in/opt-out aspect of organ donation and not on the processes that are currently in place for organ donations to occur and the involvement of family members in the decision-making.

While organ donation is a complex issue, the overwhelming support of organ donation should be harnessed to further increase the donation rates to ensure improvement in people's lives and potentially save lives. Currently in Spain the opt-out policy is in place and they have three times the donation rates than Australia. That being said it is recognised that an opt-out policy in isolation would not itself lead to further increases in donation rates but rather continue their growth.

Recommendation: Note.

14. WOY WOY BRANCH

That NSW Labor:

Recognising that research in the sciences, including biomedical, environmental, physical, and social sciences, is critical to the development of a healthy, prosperous nation,

Noting the success of Australian researchers in the fight against disease and disorder including the development of the cervical cancer vaccine, and the cochlear implant,

Deeply concerned, by federal funding and personnel cuts to peak scientific organizations including the CSIRO, universities, and research institutes,

Believing that research forms the foundation of evidence-based medicine, environmental strategy, and continued innovation in all industries

1. states explicitly the role of research in the facilitation of a healthy nation;
2. recognises the importance of basic research to the development of technology and innovation in Australia;
3. encourages higher education in the sciences;
4. promotes scientific research as a valued economic commodity that strengthens our nation.

Recommendation: Support.

15. YOUNG LABOR

It's Time to get Serious about Mental Health

Preamble

As acknowledged by Professor Patrick McGorry, former Australian of the Year, suicide is now the biggest killer of our young people.

Mental health disorders represent the largest disability burden on the Australian public, and as medicine advances this is only accelerating.

Low end estimates show that around one in five young Australians will experience a mental health disorder before they turn eighteen, but only one in four of those affected will seek help.

On current population figures, that represents 720,000 young Australians who will not seek required help in dealing with their mental health issues.

This is a national travesty and must be addressed.

Resolution

NSW Labor believes urgent action must be taken to bring mental health issues into the spotlight.

NSW Labor calls on the Federal Government and Opposition to increase the number of Medicare funded visits to mental health professionals from 10 per year to a more appropriate number based on individual circumstances.

NSW Labor recognises the tremendous barrier the cost of mental health services poses, particularly to at risk young people in Australia.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

16. YOUNG LABOR

Bonded Medical Places

Preamble

Bonded Medical Places (BMP) Scheme is intended to provide more doctors for areas experiencing doctor shortages. Twenty five percent of all first year Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP) medical school places are allocated to the scheme. Students accepting a BMP commit to working in a district of workforce shortage area of their choice (outer metropolitan, rural and remote areas) for a period of time, equal to the length of their medical degree.

The BMP is effective for delivering greater numbers of primary healthcare professionals to rural areas. It does however lack retention incentives.

Resolution

NSW Labor believes the percentage of students allocated to the BMP should be increased from 25% to 35%. This should be coupled with a HECS Reimbursement scheme. Under the Scheme doctors can reduce the burden of their educational fees by 6 months for every year spent practicing or training in a rural or regional area.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

17. YOUNG LABOR

ECT and Legal Aid for Children and Adolescents
Diagnosed with a Mental Illness in NSW

Preamble

As mandated by NSW Parliament Legislation, the Mental Health Act 2007 detailed its review of the Parliament in May of 2013. A series of recommendations about the role of various instruments administered by the Act was delivered, and are currently being deliberated for consultation and feedback.

Under current legislation there is no requirement that children 16 years and under be provided with legal representation when before the Mental Health Review Tribunal. The Mental Health Review Tribunal is a specialist quasi-judicial body constituted under the Mental Health Act 2007. It has a wide range of powers that enable it to conduct mental health inquiries, make and review orders, and to hear some appeals, about the treatment and care of people with a mental illness.

In addition, there is currently no age limit for the application of Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) despite the common and important side effect of memory impairment, and the different standards of cognitive development across the lifespan.

Resolution

NSW Labor holds the rights of the child and the protection and care given to children and adolescents by the state as of the utmost importance.

NSW Labor notes with concern that no legal representation is provided to children when subject to a meeting by the Mental Health Review Tribunal, and believes that children and adolescents until the age of 17 should be provided with legal representation by the state.

NSW Labor also notes that the State Government of Western Australia recently legislated to allocate an age limit to ECT, mandating that a child below the age of 14 would be unable to receive the treatment.

NSW Labor recommends that the Mental Health Act 2007 be amended to reflect that:

- In knowledge of the evidence of potential memory loss to persons, particularly those undergoing rapid cognitive development, an age limit of a minimum of 14 years old should be applied for the application of ECT to children and adolescents, with the added note that any such application or recommended referral for ECT be required to receive approval from the Mental Health Review Tribunal for persons aged 14 to 17 years old.

The NSW Government should provide legal representation for children up to the age of 17 when subject to a meeting of the Mental Health Review Tribunal.

Recommendation: Note.

18. YOUNG LABOR

Incentivise Rural and Remote Medical Practice

Preamble

It is accepted in the wider Australian community that Indigenous health, particularly in rural and remote communities, is in crisis. However, the scale and extent of this crisis is rarely fully understood and appreciated.

Figures released in 2010 show that on average, 1 in 3 Indigenous children won't survive infancy, and during their formative years Indigenous children are 30 times more likely to suffer anaemia and/or malnutrition. As adults, Indigenous people are 4 times more likely to develop type 2 diabetes, 5 times more likely to suffer a mental illness, 10 times more likely to develop heart disease, and 60% more likely to die from cancer causing neoplasms. The life expectancy of an Indigenous person is on average 17 years younger than that of a non-Indigenous person. However, in some remote communities, life expectancy is as low as 47 years.

Most disturbingly within many rural and remote Indigenous communities, preventable diseases, many of which have been eradicated in non-Indigenous communities, are at epidemic levels. Diseases such as tuberculosis, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, cholera, and STI's such as syphilis are at least 10 times more prevalent in Indigenous communities.

In 2009, only 0.8% of all federal health expenditure was spent on Indigenous health. Lack of access to professional help, resources and funding continues to be the largest contributing factor in the substandard medical care of Australia's First Peoples.

Resolution

NSW Labor believes that the main obstacle facing Indigenous health is a lack of access to resources and assistance. To combat this deficiency, NSW Labor believes the following steps should be taken to encourage medical professionals to practice in rural and remote Indigenous communities.

- Preference in university placements for nursing and medicine should be given to students who commit to practicing in a rural or remote Indigenous community for the first year after graduating. This commitment is formalised by a legally binding contract.
- Medical professional who choose to continue their rural or remote placement for a further 5 years will have their course costs and/or HECS debt paid for by the government.

Recommendation: Note.

19. YOUNG LABOR

Axe the GP Tax

Preamble

1. The most recent statistics show that as high as 82% of the Australian population bulk bill when visiting local GP's.
2. Medicare, introduced by the Hawke Labor Government in 1984, provides accessible and affordable healthcare to Australian residents.
3. The proposed \$7 GP tax will mean that Australians are less able to access affordable healthcare and therefore are less likely to visit their GP. This proposed tax would, would affect those most vulnerable in society including the poor, the elderly, indigenous Australians, the disabled and those with a chronic illness. Concession Card holders and children will only be waived of the \$7 GP tax after making 10 visits to the GP, their annual co-payments capped at \$70.
4. The proposed Medicare co-payment would place more pressures on the current healthcare system by driving up waiting times and costs for Hospital Emergency Departments, it is more likely to discourage someone who needs primary healthcare and ongoing medical attention, from seeking treatment than it is from discouraging people who abuse the system.
5. States and Territories will be permitted to charge a small patient contribution for GP-type attendances at Public Hospital Emergency Departments. Patients will also be charged for out of hospital co-payments for procedures such as Pathology or X-Rays.

Resolution

NSW Labor rejects the proposal of a \$7 GP Tax as a poor economic decision motivated by a political agenda that will hurt families, pensioners, Indigenous Australians, the Disabled and those with a chronic illness.

NSW Labor supports maintaining the current Medicare Levy of 2% of income tax that provides Australians Residents with accessible and affordable healthcare through Bulk Billing.

Recommendation: Support.

AUSTRALIA IN THE WORLD

AGENDA ITEMS

1. MACQUARIE FEC

- Following the 1948 UN decision to divide Palestine and the creation of the State of Israel a number of wars took place, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were displaced, thousands killed and any Palestinian territories left are now littered with hundreds of Israeli settlements.
- Israel has continued its policy of expansion into Palestinian territory through settlements illegal under international law.
- US Administration as well as the Australian Labor Government under the stewardship of Foreign Minister the Hon Bob Carr, continued to label Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem as illegitimate and illegal.
- On 29 November 2012, the United Nations voted to grant Palestine observer status in the General Assembly after a vote of 138-9 in favour of the proposition.
- On the 26 November 2013, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2014 the International Year of Solidarity with the People of Palestine

Resolution

- The Australian Labor Party is committed to Equality and Justice
- One of the Australian Labor Party's stated objectives is "Maintenance of world peace; an independent Australian position in world affairs; the recognition of the right of all nations to self-determination and independence...a commitment to resolve international conflicts through the United Nations; and a recognition of the inalienable right of all people to liberty, equality, democracy and social justice."
- The NSW Branch of the Australian Labor Party is committed to a just, equitable and peaceful solution in the Middle East with Justice for Palestine.

Action

1. The Australian Labor Party condemns the Abbott Government for its one sided Pro-occupation stance;
2. Conference commends the former Rudd and Gillard Labor Governments and in particular Former Foreign Minister, Senator the Hon Bob Carr for
 - (a) Allowing enhanced Palestinian status at the United Nations General Assembly

- (b) Opposing Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land
 - (c) Joining the vast majority of nations in branding such settlements illegal under international law
 - (d) Recognising the right of Palestinian People to a just and viable state of their own.
3. This Assembly notes the ongoing suffering of the Palestinian people under occupation
4. The NSW branch of the Australian Labor Party re endorses a two-state solution in the Middle East based on the 1967 borders
5. Endorses the resolution of the "right of return" to Palestinians displaced by Israel since the UN creation of the State of Israel
6. We urge Labor to continue the legacy of Labor Foreign policy for a just and fair solution to a Palestinian people dispossessed of their lands and of their dignity and of their basic human rights

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the 'two-state' solution, achieved through a negotiated settlement.

2. BELMORE BRANCH

Conference calls on the ALP to continue its policy stance recognising the state of Palestine and the suffering endured by Palestinians under occupation at the hands of the military might of Israel.

The objective of real peace in the Middle East will only be achieved when the Palestinian question is effectively addressed and resolved.

The first steps towards peace can only be reached when the Israeli government abides by the International Law and immediately prohibits the ongoing expansion of illegal settlements on the Palestinian occupied territory.

The Rudd and Gillard Labor governments made the correct decision by voting at the United Nations to enhance the status of Palestine in the United Nations.

The ALP policy on Palestine must not waver from the decisions made by the former federal Labor government and remain steadfast in its commitment to support the rights of Palestinians to be free from oppression and occupation, recognise Palestine as a legitimate state with full vote at the United Nations General Assembly and voice opposition to the continued expansion of illegal settlements.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the 'two-state' solution achieved through a negotiated settlement.

3. BEXLEY BRANCH

1. Following the 1948 UN decision to partition Palestine, the State of Israel was created. The Zionist State, ambitions for more Arab land, instigated a number of wars resulting in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and thousands killed. Any Palestinian territory escaping Israeli occupation and annexation is now littered with hundreds of Israeli settlements.
2. The inhumane treatment of Palestinians continues from the time the Israeli State was created to date. Israel has continued its policy of expansion into Palestinian territory through settlements illegal under international law.
3. The Rudd / Gillard Australian Labor Government under the stewardship of Foreign Minister the Hon Bob Carr, continued to label Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem for what they are: illegitimate and illegal.
4. On 29 November 2012, the United Nations voted to grant Palestine observer status in the General Assembly after a vote of 138-9 in favour of the proposition.
5. On the 26th of November 2013, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2014 the International Year of Solidarity with the People of Palestine.

Resolution

1. The Australian Labor Party is committed to equality and justice.
2. One of the Australian Labor Party's stated objectives is: "Maintenance of world peace; an independent Australian position in world affairs; the recognition of the right of all nations to self-determination and independence ... a commitment to resolve international conflicts through the United Nations; and recognition of the inalienable right of all people to liberty, equality, democracy and social justice."
3. The NSW branch of the Australian Labor Party is committed to a Just, equitable peaceful solution in the Middle East with Justice to Palestine.

Action

That the:

1. Conference condemns the Abbott Government for its one-sided Pro occupation stance;
2. Condemns continued Israeli occupation through illegal settlements and the terrorising of the Palestinian inhabitants in the West bank, Gaza and elsewhere in Palestine.
3. Conference commends the former Rudd and Gillard Labor governments and in particular Former Foreign

Minister, Senator the Hon Bob Carr for:

- (a) Allowing enhanced Palestinian status at the United Nations General Assembly;
- (b) Opposing Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land;
- (c) Joining the vast majority of nations in branding such settlements illegal under international law;
- (d) Recognising the right of Palestinian People to a just and viable state of their own;
4. This Conference notes the ongoing suffering of the Palestinian people under Israeli oppression and occupation.
5. The NSW branch of the Australian Labor Party re endorses a two-state solution in the Middle East based on the 1967 borders.
6. Endorse resolution of the right of return to Palestinians displaced by Israel since the UN creation of the State of Israel.
7. Conference urges all States and National Branches of the Australian Labor Party to continue the legacy of a fair and just Labor foreign policy for a just and fair solution to a Palestinian people disposed of their lands and of their dignity and of their basic human rights.

Recommendation: Reject.

4. BRIGHTON LE SANDS BRANCH

Conference calls for the Australian Labor Party to continue its policy stance recognising the state of Palestine and the suffering endured by Palestinians under occupation at the hands of the military might of Israel.

The objective of real peace in the Middle East will only occur when the Palestinian question is resolved. The first steps towards peace can only be reached when the Israeli Government abides by international law and immediately prohibits the ongoing expansion of illegal settlements on Palestinian territory.

The Rudd and Gillard Labor Governments made the correct decision by voting at the United Nations to enhance the status of Palestine in the United Nations. The ALP must not backtrack from this decision.

The ALP policy on Palestine must not waver from the decisions made by the former federal Labor Government and remain steadfast in its commitment to support the rights of Palestinians to be free from oppression and occupation, recognise Palestine as a legitimate state with a vote at the United Nations General Assembly and voice opposition to the continued expansion of illegal settlements.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the 'two-state solution' achieved through a negotiated settlement.

5. CANTERBURY SEC

Conference calls on the ALP to continue its policy stance recognising the state of Palestine and the suffering endured by Palestinians under occupation at the hands of the military might of Israel. The objective of real peace in the Middle East will only be achieved when the Palestinian question is effectively addressed and resolved. The first step towards peace can only be reached when the Israeli government abides by international law and immediately prohibits the ongoing expansion of illegal settlements in the Palestinian occupied territory.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the 'two-state solution' achieved through a negotiated settlement.

6. CHINESE FRIENDS OF LABOR

That NSW Labor condemns the Abbott Government for its role in the deterioration of diplomatic ties between Australia and China.

Recommendation: Support.

7. DOUBLE BAY BELLEVUE HILL BRANCH

Conference notes that under Australian law, every Australian:

- (a) Is afforded the presumption of innocence and
- (b) Has the right to silence.

Further, Conference notes that every Australian while travelling abroad is entitled to consular assistance and calls on the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs:

1. To obtain from the government of Sweden an assurance and guarantee that in the event Julian Assange is questioned in Sweden in relation to sexual misconduct allegations, he will not be extradited to any other country and in particular the United States of America under any 'temporary surrender' agreement,
2. To make representations to the governments of the United Kingdom, Sweden and Ecuador to facilitate the questioning of Julian Assange in respect of the said allegations at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London,
3. To press the United States government to urgently inform the Australian government of any steps that have been taken to indict Julian Assange in respect of his activities with Wikileaks (including the convening of a grand jury for this purpose) and of any request made to any third country to extradite

Julian Assange under any 'temporary surrender' agreement,

4. To ensure Julian Assange is provided with such consular assistance as he may require to respond to the European arrest warrant issued at the request of the government of Sweden and the said allegations.

Recommendation: Note. Conference acknowledges the extensive consular support provided to Mr Assange during the term of the last Labor Government.

8. GRANVILLE CENTRAL

Conference commends the Rudd and Gillard Labor governments for:

1. Voting to allow enhanced Palestinian status at the General Assembly;
2. Opposing Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land;
3. Joining the vast majority of nations in branding such settlements illegal under international law; and
4. Recognising the right of Palestinians to a state of their own in the context of a Middle East peace.

Conference urges Labor in opposition not to betray the legacy of Labor foreign policy by retreating from any of these commitments.

Recommendation: Note. The FPLP has reiterated that its position on Israel/Palestine has not changed.

9. GREEN VALLEY BRANCH

Conference supports the Palestinian people's struggle to fulfil their aspirations and secure their internationally recognised rights to freedom, national self-determination, justice for Palestinian refugees and equality for Palestinian citizens of Israel.

Conference commends the Rudd and Gillard Labor Governments for

- Voting to allow enhanced Palestinian status at the General Assembly
- Opposing Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land
- Joining the vast majority of nations in branding such settlements illegal under international law
- Recognising the right of Palestinians to a state of their own in the context of a Middle East Peace

Conference urges Labor Party Members in Parliament not to betray the legacy of the ALP Foreign Policy by retreating from these commitments made.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the ‘two-state solution’ achieved through a negotiated settlement.

10. HINCHINBROOK BRANCH

Conference supports the Palestinian people’s struggle to fulfill their aspirations and secure their internationally recognized rights to freedom, national self-determination, justice, and equality. We regard any nonviolent tactic as a legitimate tool in this struggle. Palestinians have the right to freedom from Israeli occupation, justice for Palestinian refugees, and equality for Palestinian citizens of Israel.

The Hinchinbrook Branch of the Australian Labor Party commends the Rudd and Gillard Labor governments for

- Voting to allow enhanced Palestinian status at the General Assembly;
- Opposing Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land;
- Joining the vast majority of nations in branding such settlements illegal under international law; and
- Recognising the right of Palestinians to a state of their own in the context of a Middle East peace.

Conference urges Labor in government and opposition not to betray the legacy of Labor foreign policy by retreating from any of these commitments

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the ‘two-state solution’ achieved through a negotiated settlement. Further, Conference notes the FLP has reiterated that its position on Israel/Palestine has not changed.

11. HORNSBY BRANCH

That Conference commends the Rudd and Gillard Labor governments for

- Voting to allow enhanced Palestinian status at the General Assembly;
- Opposing Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land, including the West Bank;
- Joining the vast majority of nations in branding such settlements illegal under international law; and
- Recognising the right of Palestinians to a state of their own in the context of a Middle East peace.

We urge Labor in opposition not to betray the legacy of Labor foreign policy by retreating from any of these commitments.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the ‘two state solution’ achieved through a negotiated settlement.

12. KATOOMBA BRANCH

That Conference commends the Rudd and Gillard Labor governments for

- voting to allow enhanced Palestinian status at the General Assembly;
- opposing Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land;
- joining the vast majority of nations in branding such settlements illegal under international law; and
- recognising the right of Palestinians to a state of their own in the context of a Middle East peace.

We urge Labor in opposition not to betray the legacy of Labor foreign policy by retreating from any of these commitments.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the ‘two-state solution’ achieved through a negotiated settlement. Further, Conference notes the FLP has reiterated that its position on Israel/Palestine has not changed.

13. KATOOMBA BRANCH

Conference notes that a viable Palestinian state should be the major goal of a Middle East peace. Without it Israel will continue to be an occupying power governing a large Arab population which will lack equal civil rights with Israeli citizens.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the ‘two-state solution’ achieved through a negotiated settlement.

14. KATOOMBA BRANCH

Conference supports the decision of the Federal Labor government to allow enhanced Palestinian status in the UN, successfully endorsed by the General Assembly in 2012.

Recommendation: Support.

15. KATOOMBA BRANCH

That Australia join 134 nations in recognising the state of Palestine.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the ‘two-state solution’ achieved through a negotiated settlement.

16. KATOOMBA BRANCH

That until the declaration of a Palestinian state, Conference calls for full equality in law and rights for Palestinians in Israeli-occupied territories.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the ‘two-

state solution' achieved through a negotiated settlement.

17. KATOOMBA BRANCH

Conference notes that under Australian law every Australian:

- (a) is afforded the presumption of innocence and
- (b) has the right to silence.

Further, the branch notes that every Australian while travelling abroad is entitled to consular assistance. Conference thus calls on the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs

1. to obtain from the government of Sweden an assurance and guarantee that in the event that Julian Assange is questioned in Sweden in relation to sexual misconduct allegations, he will not be extradited to any other country, in particular the United States, under any 'temporary surrender' agreement;
2. to make representations to the governments of the United Kingdom, Sweden and Ecuador to facilitate the questioning of Julian Assange in respect of the said allegations at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London;
3. to press the US government to urgently inform the Australian government of any steps that have been taken to indict Julian Assange in respect of his activities with Wikileaks (including the convening of a grand jury for this purpose) and of any request made to any third country to extradite Julian Assange under any 'temporary surrender' agreement; and
4. to ensure that Julian Assange is provided with such consular assistance as he may require to respond to the European arrest warrant issued at the request of the government of Sweden and the said allegations.

Recommendation: Note. Conference acknowledges the extensive consular support provided to Mr Assange during the term of the last Labor Government.

18. LAMBTON, NEW LAMBTON & KOTARA BRANCH

Defence - ANZUS Treaty:

That the Australian Government requires that, the ANZUS Treaty is restricted to initial consultation prior to any military engagement.

Recommendation: Note. Conference affirms its support for the existing National Platform and recognises the centrality of the ANZUS Treaty in Australian Defence Policy.

19. LIVERPOOL BRANCH

Conference supports the Palestinian people's struggle to fulfil their aspirations and secure their internationally recognised rights to freedom, self-determination, justice for Palestinian refugees and equality for Palestinian citizens of Israel.

We commend the Rudd and Gillard Labor Governments for

- Voting to allow enhanced Palestinian status at the General Assembly
- Opposing Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian Land
- Joining the vast majority of nations in branding such settlements illegal under international law
- Recognising the right of Palestinians to a state of their own in the context of a Middle East Peace

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the 'two state solution' achieved through a negotiated settlement. Further, Conference notes the FPLP has reiterated that its position on Israel/Palestine has not changed.

20. LIVERPOOL SEC

Conference supports the Palestinian people's struggle to fulfil their aspirations and secure their internationally recognised rights to freedom, self-determination, justice for Palestinian refugees and equality for Palestinian citizens of Israel.

We commend the Rudd and Gillard Labor Governments for

- Voting to allow enhanced Palestinian status at the General Assembly
- Opposing Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian Land
- Joining the vast majority of nations in branding such settlements illegal under international law
- Recognising the right of Palestinians to a state of their own in the context of the Middle East Peace.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the 'two-state solution' achieved through a negotiated settlement.

21. LIVERPOOL SOUTH BRANCH

Conference supports the Palestinian people's struggle to fulfil their aspirations and secure their internationally recognised rights to freedom, self-determination, and justice for Palestinian refugees and equality for Palestinian citizens of Israel.

Conference commends the Rudd and Gillard Labor

Governments for

- Voting to allow enhanced Palestinian status at the General Assembly
- Opposing Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian Land
- Joining the vast majority of nations in branding such settlements illegal under international law
- Recognising the right of Palestinians to a state of their own in the context of the Middle East Peace.

Conference urges the Labor Party Members in Parliament not to betray the legacy of the ALP Foreign Policy by retreating from these commitments.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the 'two state solution' achieved through a negotiated settlement. Further, Conference notes the FPLP has reiterated that its position on Israel/Palestine has not changed.

22. MARITIME UNION OF AUSTRALIA

That Conference commends the Rudd and Gillard Labor governments for

- voting to allow enhanced Palestinian status at the General Assembly;
- opposing Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land;
- joining the vast majority of nations in branding such settlements illegal under international law; and
- recognising the right of Palestinians to a state of their own in the context of a Middle East peace.

We urge Labor in opposition not to betray the legacy of Labor foreign policy by retreating from any of these commitments.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the 'two state solution' achieved through a negotiated settlement. Further, Conference notes the FPLP has reiterated that its position on Israel/Palestine has not changed.

23. MARITIME UNION OF AUSTRALIA

Conference notes that a viable Palestinian state should be the major goal of a Middle East peace. Without it Israel will continue to be an occupying power governing a large Arab population which will lack equal civil rights with Israeli citizens.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the 'two-state solution' achieved through a negotiated settlement.

24. MARITIME UNION OF AUSTRALIA

Conference supports the decision of the Federal Labor government to allow enhanced Palestinian status in the UN, successfully endorsed by the General Assembly in 2012.

Recommendation: Support

25. MARITIME UNION OF AUSTRALIA

That Australia join 134 nations in recognising the state of Palestine.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the 'two-state solution' achieved through a negotiated settlement.

26. MARITIME UNION OF AUSTRALIA

That until the declaration of a Palestinian state Conference calls for full equality in law and rights for Palestinians in Israeli-occupied territories.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the 'two-state solution' achieved through a negotiated settlement.

27. MARITIME UNION OF AUSTRALIA

Conference strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the spread of Israeli settlements on Palestinian land and the continuing violence by settlers directed at Palestinian families. We deplore the systematic mistreatment of Palestinian children by Israeli police and armed forces.

We stand with Palestinian people the world over in supporting the right of return of Palestinian refugees. We further condemn the apartheid wall and call for its removal.

We commend the federal Labor government for its policy that all Israeli settlements are illegal under international law which is the standard position of the international community.

Given the determination of the nationalistic government in Israel to colonise the West Bank with settlements, we call for Australia to grant full diplomatic recognition to the state of Palestine as 134 other nations have done.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the 'two-state solution' achieved through a negotiated settlement.

28. MAROUBRA BRANCH

Conference commends the Rudd and Gillard Labor governments for

- Voting to allow enhanced Palestinian status at the General Assembly;

- Opposing Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land;
- Joining the vast majority of nations in branding such settlements illegal under international law; and
- Recognising the right of Palestinians to a state of their own in the context of a Middle East peace.

Conference urges Labor in opposition not to betray the legacy of Labor foreign policy by retreating from any of these commitments.

Conference notes that a viable Palestinian state should be the major goal of a Middle East peace.

Without it Israel will continue to be an occupying power governing a large Arab population which will lack equal civil rights with Israeli citizens.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the 'two-state solution' achieved through a negotiated settlement.

29. MOUNT KEMBLA-UNANDERRA BRANCH

Conference supports the decision of the former Federal Labor Government to allow an enhanced Palestinian status in the UN, successfully endorsed by the General Assembly in 2012

Recommendation: Support.

30. NEWINGTON BRANCH

Conference notes that a viable Palestinian state should be the major goal of a Middle East peace.

Conference supports the decision of the Federal Labor government to allow enhanced Palestinian status in the UN, successfully endorsed by the General Assembly in 2012.

Conference urges that Australia join 134 nations in recognising the state of Palestine.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the 'two-state solution' achieved through a negotiated settlement.

31. REID FEC

That Conference commends the Rudd and Gillard Labor governments for

- Voting to allow enhanced Palestinian status at the General Assembly;
- Opposing Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land;
- Joining the vast majority of nations in branding such settlements illegal under international law; and
- Recognising the right of Palestinians to a state of

their own in the context of a Middle East peace.

We urge Labor in opposition not to betray the legacy of Labor Foreign Policy by retreating from any of these commitment.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the 'two state solution' achieved through a negotiated settlement. Further, Conference notes the FPLP has reiterated that its position on Israel/Palestine has not changed.

32. SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH

That Conference commends the Rudd and Gillard Labor governments for

- voting to allow enhanced Palestinian status at the General Assembly;
- opposing Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land;
- joining the vast majority of nations in branding such settlements illegal under international law; and
- recognising the right of Palestinians to a state of their own in the context of a Middle East peace.

We urge Labor in opposition not to betray the legacy of Labor foreign policy by retreating from any of these commitments.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the 'two state solution' achieved through a negotiated settlement. Further, Conference notes the FPLP has reiterated that its position on Israel/Palestine has not changed.

33. SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH

Conference notes that a viable Palestinian state should be the major goal of a Middle East peace. Without it Israel will continue to be an occupying power governing a large Arab population which will lack equal civil rights with Israeli citizens.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the 'two-state solution' achieved through a negotiated settlement.

34. SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH

Conference supports the decision of the Federal Labor government to allow enhanced Palestinian status in the UN, successfully endorsed by the General Assembly in 2012.

Recommendation: Support.

35. SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH

That Australia join 134 nations in recognising the state of Palestine.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the ‘two-state solution’ achieved through a negotiated settlement.

36. SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH

That until the declaration of a Palestinian state, Conference calls for full equality in law and rights for Palestinians in Israeli-occupied territories.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the ‘two-state solution’ achieved through a negotiated settlement.

37. TOONGABBIE BRANCH

Conference urges Labor to continue to seek a just and fair solution to the Palestinian people disposed of their lands and of their dignity and basic human rights.

In particular the Conference

- Condemns the Abbott Government for its one sided Pro occupation stance;
- Commends the Rudd and Gillard Governments for
 - Supporting enhanced Palestinian status at the United Nations General Assembly;
 - Opposing Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land;
 - Calling such settlements illegal under international law; and
 - Recognising the right of Palestinian people to a just and viable state of their own;
- Notes the ongoing suffering of the Palestinian people under occupation; and
- Endorses the right of return to Palestinians displaced by Israel since the UN creation of the State of Israel.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports the ‘two-state solution’ achieved through a negotiated settlement.

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

PLATFORM AMENDMENTS

1. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Building Sustainable Communities: boarding houses

For many years, Boarding Houses in NSW have not provided adequate, safe or supportive accommodation for people experiencing homelessness, disabilities or additional needs. Reform of the Boarding House sector has failed to sufficiently remedy these issues.

That section 1.14 be removed from Labor Policy Platform.

Recommendation: Amend Platform to delete section 1.14.

2. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Building Sustainable Communities: supporting the homeless

Conference recognises the terrible consequences of the decision of the NSW Liberal government to reduce the number of homelessness services for young people, women escaping domestic violence and a number of other vulnerable groups. It is vital that services for the homeless are safe and appropriate.

That Labor in opposition and in government will support the provision of transitional supported accommodation and related support services to people who are homeless through the Specialist Homelessness Service program.

Labor in opposition and in government will support funded specialist services across the state to work with specific vulnerable groups, including young people, women and families leaving domestic violence and GLBTIQ people.

That the current ALP Platform should be amended at section 1.18 to change SAAP to SHS.

Recommendation: Amend section 1.18 of the Platform to change 'SAAP' to 'SHS'.

Insert after 1.18, then renumber:

- 1.19 NSW Labor will support the provision of transitional supported accommodation and related support services to people who are homeless through the Specialist Homelessness Service program.**
- 1.20 NSW Labor will continue to support funded specialist services across the state to work with specific vulnerable groups, including young people, women and families leaving**

domestic violence and GLBTIQ people.

3. WEST WALLSEND BRANCH

That a future NSW Labor government abolishes the Joint Regional Planning Panels and return the planning powers to local government.

Recommendation: Note.

4. WEST WALLSEND BRANCH

That it become NSW Labor policy to repeal the sections of the Planning Act which support the formation of Joint Regional Planning Panels."

Conference believes that planning needs to be returned to local councils so that transparency of decisions can be seen by the public and ratepayers.

Recommendation: Note.

5. WOY WOY BRANCH

That an addendum be added to Section 1.33 as follows;

NSW ALP will ensure that mining is considered as one of the number of competing land uses and as the pre-eminent use, based on financial return, and be subject to full environmental impacts assessment on air quality, ground water ecology, health and social impact.

Recommendation: Refer to existing Platform sections 1.30-1.35.

6. YOUNG LABOR

Public transport

Preamble

On 15 May 2012 the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP, NSW Minister for Transport, announced the so-called 'Fixing the Trains' initiative. This program will restructure RailCorp into two separate bodies, Sydney Trains and NSW Trains.

The objectives for these bodies were stated as:

- Sydney Trains will serve customers who need quick, frequent and reliable trains in the greater Sydney suburban area
- NSW Trains will serve intercity, regional and country customers who travel longer distances and need comfortable and reliable services, with on-board facilities

This fails to recognise the needs of travellers who live outside metropolitan Sydney, but who commute to Sydney for work. It also fails to recognise the need for on-board facilities of suburban Sydney trains to be upgraded. The restructuring of the bodies contradicts the Liberal Government's stated aims of reducing bureaucracy and will lead to the erosion of synchronised services for

passengers who use both regional and suburban trains.

Further, the separation of the operations into two distinct bodies simplifies the process of privatising one part of the rail system. Privatising intercity, regional and country services will lead to significant price impacts to those living outside of metropolitan centres such as Sydney.

Platform

NSW Labor affirms its support for public ownership of the rail system, because this is the only way to guarantee that rail services remain affordable for those living outside of metropolitan hubs.

While it could be said that RailCorp has certain problems in regards to service delivery and bureaucracy, NSW Labor believes these issues can be resolved within its previous structure. NSW Labor therefore opposes the restructuring of RailCorp into Sydney Trains and NSW Trains and believes the new structure will have negative impacts on users of both systems.

Recommendation: Refer to existing section in the Platform regarding public ownership and recommendation for Platform amendment 3 in the “Our Economic Future” chapter of the report.

7. YOUNG LABOR

Youth involvement in Local Government Decision-Making

Preamble

There has been a push by the NSW Government urging Local Councils to give young people a greater role in Local Government decision-making.

Local Councils have been encouraged to tap into the views of young people and include them in strategic planning for their local communities particularly regarding ways in which local government can better support young people within their shires.

At a state level, the NSW Youth Advisory Council advises the Government on matters that concern young people. It has been proposed that Local Councils could benefit from a similar system.

Platform

NSW Labor encourages Local Governments to further engage with Young People within their communities and to include them in strategic planning to meet the future needs of youth in their respective shires. It is vital Local Government continue to provide adequate facilities and services within their communities in order to meet the needs of Young People from all socio-economic backgrounds.

Recommendation: Amend Platform to insert after 1.73, and renumber:

1.74 NSW Labor encourages Local Governments

to engage with Young People within their communities and to include them in strategic planning to meet the future needs of youth in their respective shires. It is vital Local Government continue to provide adequate facilities and services within their communities in order to meet the needs of Young People from all socio-economic backgrounds.

8. YOUNG LABOR

National Transport Concession Scheme

Preamble

The cost of transport is a basic welfare issue for most young people. The current travel concession schemes are state and territory based and operates within a restrictive framework that excludes many students. NSW has particularly limiting eligibility requirements which excludes students who study part time, work casually, travel interstate (including for university internships or placements) or who are on international student visas.

Platform

NSW Labor believes that all students, including postgraduate, part-time and international, should be able to access travel concessions.

NSW Labor believes that everyone studying at a tertiary education institute should be able to access travel concessions in each state.

NSW Labor calls on the working group created by the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Conference (CDSMC) to examine the possibility of a national concession card scheme.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference and the relevant Federal Shadow Ministers for their consideration.

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

AGENDA ITEMS

1. ADAMSTOWN BRANCH

Conference calls for national legislation to address conservation issues arising from abandoned mines. Press reports have indicated that there are more than 50,000 abandoned mines in Australia and whilst there is a National Strategic Framework for Managing Abandoned Mines in the Minerals Industry, it does not have the form of enforceable legislation.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

2. ADAMSTOWN BRANCH

Conference calls for the adoption of a national container deposit scheme for beverage containers. Conference notes that the South Australian scheme has been successful in litter reduction and that organisations such as Clean Up Australia support such a scheme.

Recommendation: Note. Refer to relevant State and Federal Shadow Minister for consideration.

3. ALSTONVILLE BRANCH

Conference condemns the NSW Government's pro-CSG agenda on the NSW North Coast and, also, calls on the NSW Labor Party to:

- (a) Support an immediate moratorium on all CSG & other unconventional gas activities & licences within the boundaries of the State Parliamentary seats of Lismore, Ballina, Clarence & Tweed on the NSW North Coast and
- (b) Support a declaration that the State Parliamentary Party seats of Lismore, Ballina, Clarence and Tweed be "CSG free" and therefore be off limits to the CSG & unconventional gas industry.

Conference notes that

- (a) On the NSW North Coast there is overwhelming community opposition to Coal Seam Gas mining;
- (b) The community's concern relates to the harmful effects of CSG mining on water quality, farm lands, the environment, communities, residents health and tourism;
- (c) The CSG industry has no social licence to operate on the NSW North Coast;
- (d) The NSW North Coast has unique environmental qualities;
- (e) CSG mining is incompatible with the NSW North

Coast's important employment sectors including tourism and agriculture.

Recommendation: Support in principle

4. ASHFIELD BRANCH

To improve housing affordability, especially for first home buyers, the Ashfield ALP Branch supports reviewing stamp duty on property purchases by introducing an option of a HECS style loan system.

Recommendation: Note. Refer to relevant State and Federal Shadow Minister for consideration.

5. AUBURN BRANCH

NSW Labor will launch a new phase of investment in public transport. At the centre of this will be a plan to increase the capacity of Sydney's public transport network. Sydney is the economic heart of NSW, and if Sydney has major constraints on growth, such as the transport infrastructure deficit it faces, then the whole State suffers. As such, investment is urgently needed in Sydney transport infrastructure.

By the end of Labor's first term work will have begun on a second Sydney Harbour rail crossing. Within a decade Labor will build the Parramatta to Epping rail link, with or without Federal support. Very fast rail services will run to the city from western and south western Sydney. Necessary upgrades on suburban lines to ensure regular and comfortable services will be made. Support will be ongoing for the South West and North West rail links, with a view to linking the lines up at a new hub in western Sydney, possibly at a new airport, depending on Federal Government decisions on that project. Light rail in Sydney CBD and South East will be completed, and light rail projects rolled out in Parramatta and other western Sydney hubs as needed. NSW Labor will support plans for a Federally funded very fast train, with a stop located in western Sydney.

Until substantial improvements are made to Sydney's rail network, Labor will freeze all public transport fare increases, with no fare increases guaranteed for Labor's first term.

Recommendation: Note. Labor supports a second Sydney Harbour crossing.

6. AUBURN BRANCH

NSW Labor will invest in a major upgrade of existing public housing stock and in a new round of public housing construction, to make up for the estimated 66% 'unmet need' in public housing. The recommendations of the NSW Auditor General's report 'Making the best use of public housing' will be implemented in order to address housing affordability at the most acute end of the housing

market.

Recommendation: Support in principle

7. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS UNION

Affordable housing: reform of the tax system

Conference recognizes that Government outlays on housing policies are significant but have failed to assist social cohesion, economic development or productivity. They do not improve access, supply or the quality of housing. Current policies entrench housing shortages, rising prices and exacerbate inequality. More people are now renting and renting for longer periods. Rental housing can no longer be regarded as transitional tenure before home ownership.

The availability of affordable rental accommodation is at crisis point. Rental costs are increasing at a more rapid rate than mortgages and rental stress is now higher than mortgage stress.

Housing is a vital part of Australia's economic infrastructure, with critical implications for productivity and long term sustainability. It is therefore essential that urban planning should provide for affordable housing - both for home owners and those who rent in areas that are accessible to jobs. While not problems can be rectified by the state government, there are significant and meaningful changes that could be made. Without reform the state's economy, social equity and cohesion will suffer.

1. Labor in federal government will introduce legislation to winding back negative gearing and the capital gains tax discount as a means to stop artificial inflation of demand for investment properties and enable more people to buy their first home. Labor in state government will work with its federal colleagues to end negative gearing.
2. Labor in government will undertake a review of stamp duty arrangements to examine alternatives such as deferred payments and amortized payments that would allow workers to move to areas with higher employment prospects.
3. Labor in local government will conduct an inventory of greenfield and redevelopment sites in their LGA's and establish developer contribution funds ('Future Funds') whereby developers make a contribution based upon a percentage of the total value of any proposed development. The funds could then be used to provide affordable housing with community facilities in areas of potential employment, with good transport links etc

Recommendation: Note. Refer to relevant State and Federal Shadow Ministers for consideration.

8. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Affordable housing – reform of the rental sector

Conference recognizes that one in four households are renting and renting for longer periods of time. The lack of encouragement for longer leases in residential tenancy rules undermines stability and security for renters, many of whom have to move far more frequently than they would like. Renters don't receive anywhere near the direct government support that home owners and investors enjoy.

1. Labor in government will introduce legislation to provide greater security for renters, including longer minimum lease periods and notice periods before a lease is terminated. Such legislation would give the large and growing group of renters a better deal, without materially reducing landlord returns.
2. Labor in government will introduce legislation to extend the minimum duration of leases while still enabling renters to give notice and terminate their tenancy without paying out the entire lease.
3. Labor in government will introduce legislation which will provide increased tenants' freedom for tenants to make minor modifications and own pets.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

9. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Affordable housing: Replacing private developer interest with government leadership in housing policy

Labor in government will establish a senior minister within cabinet with overall responsibility for state planning, assisted by ministers for housing, industry and transport with support from an Urban Planning Taskforce representing key community and industry stakeholders.

Recommendation: Support in principle. Conference notes the allocation of portfolios is a matter for the leader of the SPLP.

10. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Affordable housing: Strengthening planning approaches for affordable housing

Labor in government will introduce legislation to overcome legal constraints currently preventing the imposition of affordable housing requirements during the planning process.

Labor in government will synchronize housing and urban policy to support affordable housing considerations when land is allocated and projects assessed, including the need for central and local government policies to align, enabling local authorities to undertake proactive roles in securing

affordable housing in their communities.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

11. AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION

National Parks and Wildlife Service – stand alone Department

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) provides vital support and development for more than 850 national parks and reserves including coastal marine parks, rainforests, rugged bushlands, desert regions and local active public reserves.

Due to the huge size and scope of responsibilities of NPWS, Conference calls upon a future NSW Labor State Government to set up the NPWS as a stand alone NSW Government Department with appropriate financial resources to ensure the vital tasks maintenance, enhancement, emergency support, and fire fighting and hazard reduction work.

Recommendation: Support.

12. AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION

Badgerys Creek Airport

Badgerys Creek Airport (BCA) has the potential to provide much needed infrastructure and job creation for the residents of western Sydney. For far too long, this region has been neglected of a properly coordinated planning for road and rail infrastructure to support a projected population in the next 20 years of approximately 4 million people.

Western Sydney residents' have also expressed concerns regarding the proposed airport that must be resolved prior to the construction of the airport. These issues include

- The same curfew times and flight movements must apply to both airports;
- The establishment of Western Sydney Infrastructure and Jobs Development Authority that will develop new rail lines linking BCA to Penrith, Richmond; Blacktown & new north-west line; and dedicated rail lines to central and Kingsford-Smith Airport. The construction of a new motorway linking western Sydney to Sydney.
- Updated Environmental Impact Statement and appropriately addressing the major concerns;
- Australian made products used in the construction of the airport and infrastructure
- Youth and long-term unemployment programs to be part of the jobs and training provided in this project
- Proper community consultation to take place

NSW Labor commits in ensuring the above points are

appropriately resolved prior to the construction of the airport at Badgerys Creek.

Recommendation: Support.

13. AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION

Very Fast Train

The construction of a Very Fast Train linking Sydney – Canberra – Melbourne with limited additional stops is one of the best ways to open up regional south-east Australia for effective decentralisation of the population. The plan should incorporate the eventual extension to Brisbane. The train will allow people from regional NSW and Victoria to commute to their nearest capital cities for work, medical or other needs thereby allowing people to live further out from the major cities. This Conference calls upon State and Federal Labor Parliamentarians to develop a policy and funding strategy to support inter-capital cities Very Fast Trains.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

14. BAY AND BASIN BRANCH

Conference commends the State Parliamentary Labor Party on its response to the Coalition Government's Planning Bills.

However, Concerns remains concerned about the likely adverse impacts of the Bill as presented and amended on the social wellbeing of NSW communities and our precious environment as well as the imbalance between the interests of developers and the public. The current Bills and the public debate have focused primarily on planning and development in metropolitan areas with limited regard for regional coastal and rural communities

Conference considers that planning laws are of such fundamental importance that the Bill should be rejected and a new process should commence, based on the Moore-Dyer recommendations.

Nevertheless, Conference acknowledges that the NSW Labor Opposition has committed to passing the amended Bill.

Accordingly we urge that the Labor Opposition adhere to the principles outlined in the Hon Luke Foley's November 2013 speech to the Legislative Council and seek to maintain and extend the amendments already proposed.

In particular Conference urges NSW Labor not abandon its commitment to the principles of the current Act, particularly

1. Retaining the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development to balance social, environmental and economic outcomes
2. Mandatory community engagement in strategic planning and development decisions to ensure that

the public interest is front and centre and to restore public faith in planning processes and decisions.

3. Strategic planning and assessment that is based on independent expert evidence and merit assessment, maintaining objective criteria and “maintain and improve” objectives.
4. Maintenance and enhancement of existing environment protections, including SEPPS (State Environment Planning Policies) Environment Zones, provisions for cumulative impact assessments and climate change impacts, as well as concurrence with other environment, natural resources and heritage legislation, including Aboriginal Heritage Legislation.)
5. Removal of multiple assessment pathways whereby developers can undermine strategic plans and manipulate the system thus increasing opportunities for corruption.
6. Ensuring that Code Assessment of development applications is severely limited and is equitable across all communities including designated Growth Areas.
7. Ensuring that decision-makers are accountable and that appeal rights for members of the public are maintained and special provisions for developers removed.

Recommendation: Support in principle

15. BEROWRA FEC

1. Conference notes with concern the continuing evidence of dangerous human induced climate change, both globally and in Australia.
2. Congratulates (Federal) Members and Senators on actions taken to protect the Independent Climate
3. Change Authority, established by Labor, from abolition by the LNP Government.
4. Endorses recommendations of the Climate Change Authority for enhanced minimum targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by Australia.
5. Calls on the Party leadership and organisation to take immediate steps to adopt, and promote, these minimum recommended emissions reduction targets of 19% by 2020, and to pursue early adoption of targets in the range of 40%-60% for 2030.

Recommendation: Support

16. BLACKTOWN SEC

The newly declared Western Sydney Airport at Badgerys Creek has a number of operational concerns that must

be effectively solved prior to the airport construction commencing. The Sydney Airport Curfew Act 1995 must be amended to include Badgerys Creek Airport. Based on equity grounds alone, coupled with the projected 4 million population living in the vicinity of the proposed airport, the same curfews and flight movements must apply to both airports.

Conference calls on Federal and State Labor parliamentary members to support and fight for the Sydney Airport Curfew Act 1995 to be amended to include Badgerys Creek Airport and the same curfews and restrictions be applied to both airports.

Recommendation: Support

17. BLACKTOWN SEC

The newly declared Western Sydney Airport at Badgerys Creek has received support from many quarters on the basis of providing jobs, infrastructure and convenience of access to the airport for Western Sydney residents.

Conference supports the NSW Labor Leader's call for a Western Sydney Infrastructure and Jobs Development Authority to be set up prior to construction commencing on the airport and the following plans to be considered then implemented (amongst other issues):

- Dedicated express train services linking Central and Kingsford Smith to Badgerys Creek Airport;
- Rail lines connecting Badgerys Creek through to
 - Penrith and onto Richmond
 - Blacktown International Sports Park (between Doonside/Rooty Hill) and then onto the North West Rail line (Cudgegong Station)
- New motorway connecting Western Sydney through to the city (possibly the new WestConnex)
- Western Sydney arterial road upgrades
- Funding for Western Sydney local councils for road funding given the current backlog of works which will be further impacted by the additional traffic movements
- Increased rail capacity for Western Sydney & Blue Mountains
- Ensure procurement used in the construction and rail rolling stock are Australian made and wherever possible, preferably sourced from Western Sydney sources.
- Apprenticeships and targeted employment generating capacity be undertaken to help alleviate the unemployment issues and training
- Undertake Western Sydney preferential labour for both construction phase and ongoing jobs generated by the airport (both direct and indirect in

Western Sydney)

- Training to utilise local TAFEs wherever possible.

For the above to be successful, Conference calls upon the Labor Leaders from both Federal and State parliaments to set up a taskforce of key stakeholders to develop the required plan to support the above points.

Recommendation: Support in principle and refer to the relevant State and Federal Shadow Ministers.

18. BLACKTOWN SEC

The Badgerys Creek Airport construction does not begin without an updated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being completed and giving its clearance or outlining improvements that are to be undertaken prior to the construction of the Airport.

The EIS must take into consideration water management, air quality, ground-base noise, biodiversity, conservation and ground transport.

Recommendation: Support.

19. BLACKTOWN SEC

There are alarming health statistical reports developed by the Australian Government Public Health and Information Development Unit released in 2010 showing Western Sydney Council regions have higher incidences of asthma; respiratory system diseases; all-causes of cancers and cardiovascular diseases. There a range of factors that influence this including life-style, challenging socio economic conditions, higher propensity of manual labour as well as environmental factors such as pollution and the difficulty for air to be cleared due to the weather patterns and being located in the geographic basin backed up against Blue Mountains.

All these health factors are set to worsen as pollution increases due to increased industry, motor vehicle movements, truck movements and the added environmental effects caused by an airport at Badgerys Creek.

This conference calls upon State and Federal health shadow ministers in conjunction with local representatives and health professionals to devise a plan for Western Sydney residents in supporting health lifestyle programs; encouraging participation in organised sport and other activities; as well as improving health resources to Western Sydney hospitals such as additional specialist services, increasing number of beds; medical & nursing staff; and much needed health equipment such as MRIs and other equipment.

This must be a considered and coordinated plan developed by both Federal and State Labor parliamentary members.

Recommendation: Support in principle and refer to the relevant State and Federal Shadow Ministers.

20. BLACKTOWN SEC

Conference supports a proper community consultation process that must be undertaken prior to the commencement of construction at Badgerys Creek Airport and all valid concerns regarding future infrastructure, environmental issues, curfew, local job generation and Australian made materials must be taken into account and properly dealt with prior to the start of construction.

Recommendation: Support.

21. BLACKTOWN SEC

One of the best ways to open up regional south-east Australia is through the construction of a Very Fast Train linking Sydney- Canberra- Melbourne with limited additional stops at strategic locations. The plan should incorporate the eventual extension to Brisbane. The train will allow people from regional NSW and Victoria to commute to their nearest capital cities for work, medical or other needs thereby allowing people to live further out from the major cities. This Conference calls upon State and Federal Labor Parliamentarians to develop a policy and funding strategy to support inter-capital cities Very Fast Trains.

Recommendation: Support.

22. BLACKTOWN SEC

The accessibility upgrades of railway stations by placing lifts and improved ramps to the station and onto platforms is being rolled out at a pace that is far too slow. Western Sydney Stations such as Doonside, Rooty Hill, Toongabbie, Pendle Hill, Wentworthville and other stations have large number of commuters but with stairs as the only means of accessing platforms or steep ramps which would not be allowed under modern engineering standards. This is making access almost impossible for the elderly, people with disabilities and parents with prams. These stations are also dividing communities as generally one side has substantially more shops and services compared to the other making accessibility near impossible for many residents living on the limited shops/ services side. Easy accessible stations serve both a commuter need and social need for local residents.

Conference calls upon the State Labor Opposition to include in its election campaign deliberations to double the number of stations currently gaining the upgrades during its first term of office and also changes to the selection criteria that takes into account social need as part of the assessment in determining which stations are selected for the upgrades.

Recommendation: Support.

23. BLACKTOWN SEC

New Regional Release Areas across Western Sydney is seeing large tracts of land opening up in a staged process. Unfortunately, this has created adverse issues for smaller released areas as roads, transport, drainage easements and other infrastructure is considered in isolation rather than at a holistic interconnecting regional level.

This Conference calls upon the State Labor Opposition to develop policies for the election and once in Government for integrated regional plans prior to the release of the smaller development release areas to create a better cohesion of services and transport needs.

Recommendation: Support.

24. BLUE MOUNTAINS SEC

Conference declares its unequivocal support for the objectives of Labor's Environmental Action Network (LEAN) to enable candidates in the 2015 State election to better reflect the position being so tirelessly championed in the Legislative Council by our Shadow Minister for the Environment and Leader in the Legislative Council, Luke Foley.

Recommendation: Support.

25. BYRON BAY BRANCH

Conference Notes that:

- (a) On the NSW North Coast there is overwhelming community opposition to Coal Seam Gas and unconventional gas mining;
- (b) The community's concerns relate to the harmful effects of CSG and unconventional gas mining on water quality, farmlands, the environment, communities, residents' health, and tourism;
- (c) The CSG industry has no social licence to operate on the NSW North Coast;
- (d) The NSW North Coast has unique environmental qualities; and
- (e) CSG is incompatible with the North Coast's important employment sectors including tourism and agriculture

Conference condemns the Coalition's pro-CSG, fracking, drilling and expansion agenda on the NSW North Coast; and calls on the NSW Labor Party to

- (a) Support an immediate moratorium on all CSG and other unconventional gas activities and licences within the Boundaries of the State Parliamentary seats of Lismore, Ballina, Clarence and Tweed.
- (b) Support a declaration that the State Parliamentary seats of Lismore, Ballina, Clarence and Tweed be 'CSG Free' and therefore be off limits to the CSG

industry.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

26. CANTERBURY SEC

1. Conference condemns the Baird Liberal Government's cuts to rail services which will have a significant impact on communities across New South Wales.
2. Conference notes that this radical program of rail cuts has been implemented without any consultation with key stakeholders such as schools, community and welfare groups, local Councils and the general public.
3. Conference notes that the Liberals' cuts also include:
 - 650 Transit Officers
 - Approximately 300 positions in routine maintenance
 - Approximately 400 positions from Human Resources; Industrial Relations; Safety Environment and Quality Assurance-
 - Approximately 100 Station Managers
 - Approximately 100 Incident response and Competency Assurance (From Operational) workers
 - Approximately 30 workers from Train Planning and Scheduling
4. These cuts will have severe consequences, including:
 - Reduced security for the travelling public
 - Unclean train carriages
 - Increased levels of vandalism
 - Safety risks for the travelling public due to the scaling down of maintenance work
5. Conference calls on the NSW Government to stop the rail cuts. The NSW Government should be investing in a modern, world-class public transport system that is safe, reliable and comfortable, and meets community expectations.

Recommendation: Support.

27. CANTERBURY SEC

Conference calls on Canterbury City Council Labor to ensure that childcare services continue to be run by Council. Conference reaffirms its view that public ownership of childcare delivers the highest quality of service.

Recommendation: Note. Refer to Canterbury Local Government Committee.

28. CHINESE FRIENDS OF LABOR

That NSW Labor condemns the State Coalition Government for cancelling the 888 free bus services without providing any replacement transport options for residents of South West Sydney.

Recommendation: Support.

29. CONFERENCE POLICY AND AGENDA COMMITTEE

Better Public Transport

Preamble

Conference condemns the Baird Liberal Government's cuts to rail services which will have a significant impact on communities across New South Wales.

Conference notes that this radical program of rail cuts has been implemented without any consultation with key stakeholders such as schools, community and welfare groups, local Councils and the general public.

Conference notes that the Liberals' cuts also include:

- 650 Transit Officers
- Approximately 300 positions in routine maintenance
- Approximately 400 positions from Human Resources; Industrial Relations; Safety Environment and Quality Assurance
- Approximately 100 Station Managers
- Approximately 100 Incident response and Competency Assurance (From Operational) workers
- Approximately 30 workers from Train Planning and Scheduling

These cuts will have severe consequences, including:

- Reduced security for the travelling public
- Unclean train carriages
- Increased levels of vandalism
- Safety risks for the travelling public due to the scaling down of maintenance work

Conference also notes that a lack of investment in rail infrastructure in Greater Sydney is now constraining growth, and thus having a negative impact on the NSW economy.

Conference calls for the development of a new integrated transport plan that will ensure a sustainable growth in rail patronage that is fair and affordable; and based on the proven concepts for rail network development. The plan will address the deficit in urban passenger rail infrastructure in Greater Sydney

At the centre of this will be a plan to increase the capacity of Sydney's public transport network through major

capacity-building infrastructure projects, such as

- A second harbour rail crossing;
- The Parramatta-Epping Rail Link;
- Light rail projects in Central Sydney and Parramatta;
- A direct rail link to the new airport at Badgerys Creek.

Resolution

NSW Labor commits to

- stopping any further cuts to rail staffing and services;
- investing in a modern, world-class public transport system that is safe, reliable and comfortable, and meets community expectations;
- building capacity-building urban rail infrastructure projects such as a second harbour rail crossing; and
- preparing a new integrated long-term transport strategy for Greater Sydney.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

30. CONFERENCE POLICY AND AGENDA COMMITTEE

Western Sydney Airport Infrastructure

The newly declared Western Sydney Airport at Badgerys Creek has received support from many quarters on the basis of providing jobs, infrastructure and convenience of access to the airport for Western Sydney residents.

Conference notes, however, that the development of the new airport without the construction of associated transport infrastructure (including rail links), and without a commitment to using local labour and content, will not deliver the economic stimulus that Western Sydney needs.

Conference also recognises the transport needs of people travelling to Sydney from regional areas. If regional airlines are relocated to Badgerys Creek, medical services, business and planning trips and even tourist and holiday trips would become impossible for people in country NSW. The extra travel time to and from the city and prohibitive costs will affect individuals, business and public services.

Conference supports the NSW Labor Leader's call for a Western Sydney Infrastructure and Jobs Development Authority to be set up prior to construction commencing on the airport. The Authority should address issues including:

- The provision of fast, direct rail services linking Central and Kingsford Smith to Badgerys Creek Airport;
- Rail lines connecting Badgerys Creek through to
 - Penrith and onto Richmond

- Blacktown International Sports Park (between Doonside/Rooty Hill) and then onto the North West Rail line (Cudgegong Station)
- New motorway connecting Western Sydney through to the city (possibly the new WestConnex)
- Western Sydney arterial road upgrades
- Funding for Western Sydney local councils for road funding given the current backlog of works which will be further impacted by the additional traffic movements
- Increased rail capacity for Western Sydney & Blue Mountains
- Ensure procurement used in the construction of the airport and other related infrastructure (including roads and rail lines) are made using Australian-made products
- Apprenticeships and targeted employment generating capacity be undertaken to help alleviate the unemployment issues and training
- Undertake Western Sydney preferential labour for both construction phase and ongoing jobs generated by the airport (both direct and indirect in Western Sydney) wherever possible
- Training to utilise local TAFEs wherever possible.

Action

NSW Labor commits to forming a Western Sydney Airport taskforce comprising major stakeholders to ensure the Airport project delivers on its full potential for Western Sydney.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

31. CONFERENCE POLICY AND AGENDA COMMITTEE

Very Fast Train

One of the best ways to open up regional south-east Australia is through the construction of a Very Fast Train linking Sydney- Canberra- Melbourne with limited additional stops at strategic locations. The plan should incorporate the eventual extension to Brisbane. The train will allow people from regional NSW and Victoria to commute to their nearest capital cities for work, medical or other needs thereby allowing people to live further out from the major cities. This Conference calls upon State and Federal Labor Parliamentarians to develop a policy and funding strategy to support inter-capital cities Very Fast Trains.

Recommendation: Support in principle

32. DOONSIDE BRANCH

The newly declared Western Sydney Airport at Badgerys

Creek has a number of operational concerns that must be effectively solved prior to the airport construction commencing. The Sydney Airport Curfew Act 1995 must be amended to include Badgerys Creek Airport. Based on equity grounds alone, coupled with the projected 4 million population living in the vicinity of the proposed airport, the same curfews and flight movements must apply to both airports.

This Conference calls on Federal and State Labor parliamentary members to support and fight for the Sydney Airport Curfew Act 1995 to be amended to include Badgerys Creek Airport and the same curfews and restrictions be applied to both airports.

Recommendation: Support.

33. DOONSIDE BRANCH

The newly declared Western Sydney Airport at Badgerys Creek has received support from many quarters on the basis of providing jobs, infrastructure and convenience of access to the airport for Western Sydney residents.

Conference supports the NSW Labor Leader's call for a Western Sydney Infrastructure and Jobs Development Authority to be set up prior to construction commencing on the airport and the following plans to be considered then implemented (amongst other issues)

- Dedicated express train services linking Central and Kingsford Smith to Badgerys Creek Airport;
- Rail lines connecting Badgerys Creek through to
 - Penrith and onto Richmond
 - Blacktown International Sports Park (between Doonside/Rooty Hill) and then onto the North West Rail line (Cudgegong Station)
- New motorway connecting Western Sydney through to the city (possibly the new WestConnex)
- Western Sydney arterial road upgrades
- Funding for Western Sydney local councils for road funding given the current backlog of works which will be further impacted by the additional traffic movements
- Increased rail capacity for Western Sydney & Blue Mountains
- Ensure procurement used in the construction and rail rolling stock are Australian made and wherever possible, preferably sourced from Western Sydney sources.
- Apprenticeships and targeted employment generating capacity be undertaken to help alleviate the unemployment issues and training
- Undertake Western Sydney preferential labour for both construction phase and ongoing jobs

generated by the airport (both direct and indirect in Western Sydney)

- Training to utilise local TAFEs wherever possible.

For the above to be successful, Conference calls upon the Labor Leaders from both Federal and State parliaments to set up a taskforce of key stakeholders to develop the required plan to support the above points.

Recommendation: Support in principle and refer to the relevant State and Federal Shadow Ministers.

34. DOONSIDE BRANCH

The Badgerys Creek Airport construction does not begin without an updated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being completed and giving its clearance or outlining improvements that are to be undertaken prior to the construction of the Airport. The EIS must take into consideration water management, air quality, ground-base noise, biodiversity, conservation and ground transport.

Recommendation: Support.

35. DOONSIDE BRANCH

There are alarming health statistical reports developed by the Australian Government Public Health and Information Development Unit released in 2010 showing Western Sydney council regions have higher incidences of asthma; respiratory system diseases; all-causes of cancers and cardiovascular diseases. There a range of factors that influence this including life-style, challenging socio-economic conditions, higher propensity of manual labour as well as environmental factors such as pollution and the difficulty for air to be cleared due to the weather patterns and being located in the geographic basin backed up against the Blue Mountains.

All these health factors are set to worsen as pollution increases due to increased industry, motor vehicle movements, truck movements and the added environmental effects caused by an airport at Badgerys Creek.

Conference calls upon State and Federal health shadow ministers in conjunction with local representatives and health professionals to devise a plan for Western Sydney residents in supporting health lifestyle programs; encouraging participation in organised sport and other activities; as well as improving health resources to Western Sydney hospitals such as additional specialist services, increasing number of beds; medical & nursing staff; and much needed health equipment such as MRIs and other equipment.

This must be a considered and coordinated plan developed by both Federal and State Labor parliamentary members.

Recommendation: Support in principle and refer to

the relevant State and Federal Shadow Ministers.

36. DOONSIDE BRANCH

Conference supports a proper community consultation process that must be undertaken prior to the commencement of construction at Badgerys Creek Airport and all valid concerns regarding future infrastructure, environmental issues, curfew, local job generation and Australian made materials must be taken into account and properly dealt with prior to the start of construction.

Recommendation: Support.

37. DOONSIDE BRANCH

One of the best ways to open up regional south-east Australia is through the construction of a Very Fast Train linking Sydney- Canberra- Melbourne with limited additional stops at strategic locations. The plan should incorporate the eventual extension to Brisbane. The train will allow people from regional NSW and Victoria to commute to their nearest capital cities for work, medical or other needs thereby allowing people to live further out from the major cities. This Conference calls upon State and Federal Labor Parliamentarians to develop a policy and funding strategy to support inter-capital cities Very Fast Trains.

Recommendation: Support.

38. DOONSIDE BRANCH

The accessibility upgrades of railway stations by placing lifts and improved ramps to the station and onto platforms is being rolled out at a pace that is far too slow. Western Sydney Stations such as Doonside, Rooty Hill, Toongabbie, Pendle Hill, Wentworthville and other stations have large number of commuters but with stairs as the only means of accessing platforms or steep ramps which would not be allowed under modern engineering standards. This is making access almost impossible for the elderly, people with disabilities and parents with prams. These stations are also dividing communities as generally one side has substantially more shops and services compared to the other making accessibility near impossible for many residents living on the limited shops/ services side. Easy accessible stations serve both a commuter need and social need for local residents.

Conference calls upon the State Labor Opposition to include in its election campaign deliberations to double the number of stations currently gaining the upgrades during its first term of office and also changes to the selection criteria that takes into account social need as part of the assessment in determining which stations are selected for the upgrades.

Recommendation: Support

39. DOONSIDE BRANCH

New Regional Release Areas across Western Sydney is seeing large tracts of land opening up in a staged process. Unfortunately, this has created adverse issues for smaller released areas as roads, transport, drainage easements and other infrastructure is considered in isolation rather than at a holistic interconnecting regional level.

This Conference calls upon the State Labor Opposition to develop policies for the election and once in Government for integrated regional plans prior to the release of the smaller development release areas to create a better cohesion of services and transport needs.

Recommendation: Support.

40. ELECTRICAL TRADES UNION

Conference supports a planned removal of asbestos from all NSW Government departments, bodies, state owned corporations, statutory authorities, agencies and any other associated NSW Government entity by 2030. Asbestos is a silent killer that continues to impact on the lives of workers across NSW and Australia. Conference notes the good work done at a national level under Bill Shorten through the establishment of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency. Conference calls on the NSW Parliamentary Labor Party to support a staged removal of asbestos from all NSW Government agencies by 2030.

Recommendation: Support.

41. EDEN-MONARO FEC

Conference urges the party at all levels to maintain a strong position on the need to take effective measures to limit the emission of carbon dioxide as the only mechanism that can ameliorate the acceleration of global warming, and its impact on climate.

Recommendation: Support.

42. EDEN-MONARO FEC

Conference notes that there is great concern within the community about the production of coal seam gas (CSG) and that the Party must develop policy relating to CSG and all non-conventional gases. It calls upon the NSW ALP to adopt the following principles in respect of the production of non-conventional gas reserves

- All members of the NSW community have a right to be involved in industry consultations over the development of non-conventional gas reserves;
- The right of land owners is to be respected within the existing legislation and that any changes to that legislation to be undertaken only after consultations;
- A proper regulatory framework as part of the Party's energy policy;

- Appropriate environmental guidelines relating to the use of water and any impact on water resources should be part of an overall water policy within the Party's environmental policy;
- Consideration of reserving a proportion of gas produced for domestic consumption be part of the Party's energy policy. This take account of the development of the necessary infrastructure for the domestic market.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

43. ENMORE/CAMDENVILLE BRANCH

Conference considers that the Pilliga forests/coal seam gas debate gives great opportunities for the ALP to find weaknesses in the State government's haste to push CSG at the expense of the environment.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

44. ENMORE/CAMDENVILLE BRANCH

Conference urges shadow federal environment spokesperson, Mark Butler, to pursue the Abbott government, particularly the PM, on its decision to revoke 74,000 ha of World Heritage Area in Tasmania and saying we have enough national parks.

Recommendation: Support and refer to National Conference.

45. GOULBURN BRANCH

Conference calls for policies to support economically disadvantaged people by increasing the availability of public housing in NSW.

Recommendation: Support.

46. GRAFTON BRANCH

Future NSW Labor governments

1. Will through policies and by legislation ensure the highest priority to the protection of surface and ground water catchments and prohibit Coal Seam Gas (CSG) and Unconventional Gas Industries (UGI) where they place water resources used for domestic supply, primary production and other rural industries at risk.
2. Will meet future energy needs of NSW for industry and domestic uses, in particular the small part that might be met from Coal Seam Gas (CSG), by renewable energy generation systems assuring the State of employment growth and the expansion and development of productive industries in a safe social environment.
3. Will legislate to protect critical food industries

(including dairy, beef and horticulture) and tourism industry clusters from Coal Seam Gas (CSG) and Unconventional Gas Industries (UGI).

4. Will review and amend the Petroleum On-Shore Act to prescribe environment protection as a mandatory precondition for Coal Seam Gas (CSG) and Unconventional Gas Industries (UGI).
5. Will present to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) a Domestic Gas Reservation Policy to preserve a percentage of locally produced gas for Australian consumers.
6. Will introduce legislation to enhance the standing of landholders in relation to access by exploration and extraction industries with sub-surface rights.

Recommendation: Note.

47. GRAFTON BRANCH

Conference

1. Notes that:
 - (a) on the NSW North Coast there is overwhelming community opposition to Coal Seam Gas and Unconventional Gas mining and mining operations;
 - (b) the community's concern relates to the harmful effects of CSG mining on water quality, farm lands, the environment, communities, residents' health, and tourism;
 - (c) the CSG industry has no social licence to operate on the NSW North Coast;
 - (d) the NSW North Coast has unique environmental qualities; and
 - (e) CSG mining is incompatible with the NSW North Coast's important employment sectors including tourism and agriculture;
2. Condemns the NSW Liberal/National Party Government's pro-CSG fracking, drilling and expansion agenda on the NSW North Coast; and
3. Calls on the NSW Labor Party to:
 - (a) support an immediate moratorium on all CSG activities and licences within country electorates in NSW; and
 - (b) support a declaration that the State Parliamentary seats of Lismore, Ballina, Clarence and Tweed be 'CSG Free' and therefore be off limits to the Coal Seam Gas and Unconventional Gas industries.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

48. HAWKESBURY BRANCH

NSW Labor will invest in a major upgrade of existing public housing stock and in a new round of public housing construction, to make up for the estimated 66% 'unmet need' in public housing. The recommendations of the NSW Auditor General's report 'Making the best use of public housing' will be implemented in order to address housing affordability at the most acute end of the housing market.

Recommendation: Support.

49. KINSGROVE BRANCH

Conference calls on the State Parliamentary Labor Party to develop policies for public and social housing which:

- Increases the supply of public and social housing;
- Improves the maintenance of public housing;
- Recognises changes in the demand for social housing arising from Australia's
- ageing population; and
- Encourages the development of innovative partnerships between the government and non-government organisations to provide housing and services to address specific needs in the community.

Recommendation: Support.

50. KINSGROVE BRANCH

That NSW Labor condemns the decision by the NSW Liberals and Nationals to forcibly evict public housing tenants from Millers Point, Dawes Point and The Rocks. NSW Labor notes that this cruel decision will adversely impact the residents of this community, many of whom are elderly and will be forced to move from homes they have lived in for decades. NSW Labor commits to investing in the construction of new social housing through a coordinated and planned approach in order to meet the growing demand for affordable, secure and appropriate accommodation for those in need.

Recommendation: Support.

51. HORNSBY BRANCH

1. Notes with concern the continuing evidence of dangerous human induced climate change, both globally and in Australia.
2. Congratulates Members and Senators on actions taken to protect the Independent Climate Change Authority, established by Labor, from abolition by the LNP Government.
3. Endorses recommendations of the Climate Change Authority for enhanced minimum targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by

Australia.

4. Calls on the Party leadership and organisation to take immediate steps to adopt, and promote, these minimum recommended minimum emissions reduction targets of 19% by 2020, and to pursue early adoption of targets in the range of 40%-60% for 2030.

Recommendation: Support. Refer to National Conference.

52. KINGS CROSS BRANCH

Conference remains committed to the principle that all people deserve a decent home and the ability to build a community around it, especially in the case of community and public housing for low income, elderly or at-risk people.

We oppose the Government sell-off of public housing and relocation of tenants in Millers Point and the inner city.

Recommendation: Support.

53. KINGS CROSS BRANCH

Conference opposes the proposal by the Liberal State Government to develop the Botanic Gardens, Domain and the Trust lands. Public land is a public good and should not be alienated for commercial uses.

Recommendation: Support.

54. KU RING GAI BRANCH

Conference notes with concern continuing evidence of dangerous human induced climate change, globally and for Australia.

Recommendation: Support.

55. KU RING GAI BRANCH

Congratulates Members and Senators on actions to protect the independent Climate Change Authority, established under Labor, from abolition by the Abbott government.

Recommendation: Support.

56. KU RING GAI BRANCH

Conference endorses the recommendations of the Climate Change Authority for enhanced minimum targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by Australia.

Recommendation: Support.

57. KU RING GAI BRANCH

Conference calls on the Party leadership and organisation to take immediate steps to adopt and promote minimum

emissions reduction targets of 19% by 2020 and to pursue early adoption of targets in the range of 40-60% for 2030.

Recommendation: Support and refer to National Conference.

58. KU RING GAI BRANCH

Conference calls on the Federal Labor Party to clearly describe and articulate to the electorate Labor's main method of achieving these policy objectives as an Emissions Trading Scheme.

Recommendation: Support and refer to National Conference.

59. LAMBTON, NEW LAMBTON & KOTARA BRANCH

Climate Change Emissions:

Conference notes with concern continuing evidence of dangerous human induced climate change, globally and for Australia. We congratulate Members and Senators on actions to protect the independent Climate Change Authority, established by Labor from abolition by the Abbott Government.

- State Conference endorses the recommendations of the Climate Change Authority for enhanced minimum targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by Australia, and
- Calls on the Party leadership and organisation to take immediate steps to adopt and promote minimum emissions reduction targets of 19% by 2020, and to pursue early adoption of targets in the range of 40-60% for 2030.

Recommendation: Support.

60. LAMBTON, NEW LAMBTON & KOTARA BRANCH

"Rail Trail" on the Historic Richmond Vale Rail line from Pelaw Main to Hexham:

This historic rail line first legislated in 1854 runs across SEPP14 Wetlands and National Parks. The development of a cycleway/pedestrian walkway (Rail Trail) was on the list for infrastructure funds from the previous Federal Labor Government. The Liberal government is now planning to co-opt the Richmond Vale line for a heavy freight rail line across Hexham Swamp, thereby resuming public lands. State policy must be

1. "There must be no heavy freight rail by-pass infrastructure located within the current E1 National Parks zoned boundary of the Tank Paddock at Minmi or adjoining lands. These environmental offset lands have been exchanged for Coal & Allied

industrial development at Blackhill.

2. No heavy freight rail by-pass infrastructure to be located on the existing Richmond Vale line easement between Pelaw Main and Hexham. The whole of the easement between Pelaw Main and Hexham has been and still must be reserved for the regional cycleway (Rail Trail).

Recommendation: Note.

61. LAMBTON, NEW LAMBTON & KOTARA BRANCH

Nobbys Headland (Newcastle):

Remove title to Nobbys Headland from the State Government Roads and Maritime Services and place it under the National Parks and Wildlife Service to preserve and protect this iconic headland for the benefit of Newcastle and the wider community. Do not allow a lease of Nobbys Headland to private interests as is current under the NSW Liberal Government.

Recommendation: Support.

62. LAMBTON, NEW LAMBTON & KOTARA BRANCH

Recycling Plastic:

Recycling plastic is inefficient and mostly limited to down cycling before it is dumped and it was agreed at the COAG in 2009; this needs to be addressed and national action needs to be taken to keep plastic out of our waterways off our land and most pressing out of our oceans. Therefore, we request the State and National ALP to take the following steps:

- Introduce a National container deposit scheme that allows only biodegradable/compostable plastic for single use containers:
- Or apply a non-disposable waste levy, and
- Store it at the manufacturers cost until a method of returning the plastic to natural systems is found.
- Nationally ban all retail plastic bags, (Tasmania has done this).

Recommendation: Support in principle.

63. LAMBTON, NEW LAMBTON & KOTARA BRANCH

ALP to Resist Lobby Groups - Container Deposit Scheme

A container deposit scheme is the only way we are going to clean up the plastics in landfill and in the Oceans. We urge the ALP to resist the financial self-interest of the lobby groups opposing a container deposit scheme in NSW. South Australia is a very good example of a successful

container deposit scheme, which should be emulated.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

64. LAMBTON, NEW LAMBTON & KOTARA BRANCH

State Parks and Reserves:

The NSW Labor Parliamentary Opposition opposed the "Crown Lands Amendment (Multiple Land Use) Bill 2013" and now policy is to pledge to repeal it when the Labor Party next wins government in NSW.

Recommendation: Reject. The original bill was amended by Labor.

65. LAMBTON, NEW LAMBTON & KOTARA BRANCH

Public Housing:

NSW Labor will invest in a major upgrade of existing public house stock and in a new round of public housing construction to make up for the estimated 66% unmet need' in public housing.

Recommendation: Support.

66. LITHGOW BRANCH

Conference is gravely concerned about the impact of coal seam gas extraction on water and food production in Australia. Further we oppose any attempts to sell gas extracted so cheaply overseas only for it to be sold back by large energy interests/cartels to Australia at higher prices. We call upon state and federal governments to regulate decisively in this regard.

Recommendation: Support and refer to National Conference.

67. LOWER CLARENCE

Conference does not believe that full consideration is being given to transport needs of country people in the current discussion and planning for a second Sydney Airport.

It is essential that we maintain access to Kingsford Smith Airport. If Regional Airlines are relegated to Badgerys Creek, medical services, business and planning trips and even tourist and holiday trips would become impossible for people in Country NSW. The extra travel time to and from the city and prohibitive costs will affect individuals, business and public services.

Conference urges that this be taken into consideration when discussing the proposed new airport.

Recommendation: Support.

68. MACQUARIE GAI BRANCH

NSW Labor will launch a new phase of investment in public transport. At the centre of this will be a plan to increase the capacity of Sydney's public transport network. Sydney is the economic heart of NSW, and if Sydney has major constraints on growth, such as the transport infrastructure deficit it faces, then the whole State suffers. As such, investment is urgently needed in Sydney transport infrastructure.

By the end of Labor's first term work will have begun on a second Sydney Harbour rail crossing. Within a decade Labor will build the Parramatta to Epping rail link, with or without Federal support. Very fast rail services will run to the city from western and south western Sydney. Necessary upgrades on suburban lines to ensure regular and comfortable services will be made.

Support will be ongoing for the South West and North West rail links, with a view to linking the lines up at a new hub in western Sydney, possibly at a new airport, depending on Federal Government decisions on that project. Light rail in Sydney CBD and South East will be completed, and light rail projects rolled out in Parramatta and other western Sydney hubs as needed. NSW Labor will support plans for a Federally funded very fast train, with a stop located in western Sydney.

Until substantial improvements are made to Sydney's rail network, Labor will freeze all public transport fare increases, with no fare increases guaranteed for Labor's first term. Future fare increases will be based on progressive fare structures, rather than having fare structures that are based on distance alone.

Recommendation: Note. Labor is committed to a second Sydney Harbour Rail crossing.

69. MACQUARIE BRANCH

NSW Labor will invest in a major upgrade of existing public housing stock and in a new round of public housing construction, to make up for the estimated 66% 'unmet need' in public housing. The recommendations of the NSW Auditor General's report 'Making the best use of public housing' will be implemented in order to address housing affordability at the most acute end of the housing market.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

70. MAYFIELD BRANCH

Conference supports the development of development control plans (DCP's) and State policies for the implementation of environmental initiatives at construction time in low rise apartment blocks including cross ventilation, solar power and rainwater tanks.

Recommendation: Support.

71. MAYFIELD BRANCH

Conference calls for support from the City of Newcastle to create a suitable memorial to reflect the 100 years of the ANZAC landing. Conference notes that over 60,000 soldiers were lost in the battles of WWI and that hardly a family was spared from losing one of their sons. There is not a town without a well-cared for monument.

Recommendation: Support.

72. MAYFIELD BRANCH

Conference calls for a State Government shuttle bus to run from the Waratah Station via Hunter Stadium to Broadmeadow Railway Station to cater for special events at Hunter Stadium or the Newcastle Entertainment Centre. This will remove traffic congestion and parking problems around these two venues when big crowds are anticipated.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

73. MAYFIELD BRANCH

Conference calls on a future NSW Labor government to introduce an effective system of incentives and mandatory targets so that developers include affordable housing in all new housing developments. There have been decades of attempts at this.

Conference notes that the 10% rule has been in place in some jurisdictions, such as South Australia, with the result that every large housing area contains affordable housing.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

74. MAYFIELD BRANCH

Conference supports universal travel concession for students, University and TAFE students, including international and part time students. This should be seen as not a cost for the State, but as an investment in the future; and saving \$20 a week would encourage more use of public transport. The benefit to the community is in the education of our students returning value to the community through future work.

Recommendation: Refer to recommendation to Platform amendment 8.

75. MACQUARIE FEC

Conference declares its unequivocal support for the objectives of Labor's Environmental Action Network (LEAN) to enable candidates in the 2015 State election to better reflect the position being so tirelessly championed in the Legislative Council by our Shadow Minister for the Environment and Leader in the Upper House, Luke Foley.

Recommendation: Support.

76. MEDIA, ENTERTAINMENT AND ARTS ALLIANCE

Funding Cuts to ABC and SBS

Conference condemns the Federal Government's cut of \$43.5 million over four years in the funding for Australia's public broadcasters announced in the 2014 Budget. The funding cuts are a broken promise and are being inflicted on organisations that are already starved of funds. The two broadcasters have repeatedly demonstrated that they are efficient managers of their triennial funding.

Conference is also concerned that the decision to abandon the ABC-operated Australia Network may have flow-on effects that harm the ABC's international coverage. Taken together the two cuts will cost the ABC about \$120 million in funding over four years. At least 80 jobs could be lost at the ABC. Redundancies may also result at SBS. Both broadcasters have warned of a reduction in services – with rural and regional Australia and international bureaux to be among the hardest hit.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott made a promise that there would be no cuts to the ABC or SBS on the eve of his election. That promise has been broken and comes after unprecedented political interference in the editorial independence of public broadcasting in Australia.

The Budget papers also say that the reductions in funding announced in the Budget are just a "down payment" on even harsher cuts to come out of the efficiency audit currently underway, cuts that will further cripple the broadcasters who constantly struggle to meet the demands placed on them to compete with commercial broadcasters in a dynamic media space that is being dramatically transformed by digital technology.

That conference fight to stop these cuts from inflicting untold damage on these two much-loved, respected and essential Australian institutions. Further that funding to ABC and SBS be restored to ensure we have a relevant and vibrant public broadcaster.

Recommendation: Support and refer to National Conference.

77. MEDIA, ENTERTAINMENT AND ARTS ALLIANCE

Budget Cuts Australian Interactive Games Fund

Conference condemns the Federal Government's decision pull all funding from the Australian Interactive Games Fund (AIGF) in the 2014/15 Budget.

The \$20 million fund was set up after release of the Gillard Governments Cultural Policy to help the local industry "build a sustainable base for companies to grow in a global market."

The Abbotts Governments decision to pull the funding

from this emerging industry sector is short-sighted and will certainly affect the future success of Australia's gaming development industry.

The decision to Axe the AIGF is an attack on Australian culture and innovation. This is an industry at the forefront of emerging technology with a huge potential for growth. However, the ability of our local developers and studios to build success and compete on a global scale will be greatly hindered by this move.

The Budget announcement also affirmed that the \$10 million remaining in the fund would be redirected to repair the Budget and to fund other policy priorities.

That Conference affirms its commitment to the ALP's cultural policy and supporting immerging technologies within the Games Development industry. That the ALP will re-establish the Australian Interactive Games Fund to promote games development industry.

Further conference supports an Arts & Entertainment industry that

- Compete on a global scale to promote Australian culture and innovation through creative arts and;
- Acknowledges and support its creative arts has an intrinsic and important part of our cultural identity.

Recommendation: Support and refer to National Conference.

78. MONARO BRANCH

Conference urges the party at all levels to maintain a strong position on the need to take effective measures to limit the emission of carbon dioxide as the only mechanism that can ameliorate the acceleration of global warming, and its impact on climate.

Recommendation: Support.

79. MOUNT DRUITT SEC

The next Labor government will repeal the limited tenure of gravesites legislation and also ensure that there are sufficient public graves available to the people of Western Sydney.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

80. MARRICKVILLE SEC

Conference urges all levels of the ALP not to use helium for inflatable balloons. Helium is a finite gas and used for high technology cooling such as MRI scans.

Recommendation: Note.

81. NEWCASTLE FEC

Conference understands that Federal and State

environment ministers are to meet to consider, or have under consideration, a national container deposit scheme. Conference urges the adoption of such a scheme. Conference understands that the South Australian scheme has been successful in litter reduction. Conference also notes that organisations such as Clean Up Australia support such a scheme.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

82. NEWCASTLE FEC

Conference urges the establishment of a Federal Labor policy that provides a safe coal seam gas industry across Australia, especially ensuring that any nearby aquifers are kept safe from contamination.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

83. NEWCASTLE FEC

Conference calls for national legislation to address conservation issues arising from abandoned mines. Press reports indicate that there are more than 50,000 abandoned mines in Australia and there is no federal legislation to protect people or the environment.

Recommendation: Support and refer to National Conference.

84. NEWCASTLE FEC

Conference believes that recycling plastic is inefficient and mostly limited to down cycling before it is dumped. It was agreed at the COAG in 2009 that this needs to be addressed and national action needs to be taken to keep plastic out of our waterways, off our land and, most pressing, out of our oceans. Therefore we request the following policy steps be taken:

- (a) Nationally ban all retail plastic bags.
- (b) Introduce a National container deposit scheme that allows only biodegradable/compostable plastic for single use containers; or apply a non-disposable waste levy, and store it at the manufacturer's cost until a method of returning the plastic to natural systems is found.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

85. NEWTOWN SEC

Conference considers that the Pilliga forests / coal seam gas debate gives great opportunities for the ALP to find and expose weaknesses in the State Government's haste to push CSG at the expense of the environment.

Further, Newtown SEC asks the Shadow Minister to circulate relevant to allow for a grassroots campaign from the membership.

Recommendation: Support.

86. PAGE FEC

Conference

1. Notes that:
 - (a) On the NSW North Coast there is overwhelming community opposition to Coal Seam Gas mining;
 - (b) The community's concern relates to the harmful effects of CSG mining on water quality, farm lands, the environment, communities, residents' health, and tourism;
 - (c) the CSG industry has no social licence to operate on the NSW North Coast;
 - (d) the NSW North Coast has unique environmental qualities; and
 - (e) CSG mining is incompatible with the NSW North Coast's important employment sectors including tourism and agriculture;
2. Condemns the NSW Liberal/National Party Government's pro-CSG fracking, drilling and expansion agenda on the NSW North Coast; and
3. Condemns the NSW Liberal/National Party Calls on the NSW Labor Party to:
 - (a) Support an immediate moratorium on all CSG activities and licences within the boundaries of the State Parliamentary seats of Lismore, Ballina, Clarence, and Tweed on the NSW North Coast; and
 - (b) Support a declaration that the State Parliamentary seats of Lismore, Ballina, Clarence and Tweed be 'CSG Free' and therefore be off limits to the CSG industry.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

87. PENANT HILLS BRANCH

No Notification to the public of significant changes to travel and lack of integration of the NWRL into the public transport system.

Conference calls for the Labor Party to instigate a Judicial Review by the Land and Environment Court investigating the lack of documentation surrounding the NWRL in its currently proposed configuration, a configuration which will result in significant changes to existing rail services and customers, impacts which were never identified in the EIS or offered to the community for comment as part of the project's environmental approval process.

Request our parliamentarians to raise a motion to suspend all works on the NWRL until an independent expert panel

review of the project has been undertaken to determine

- (a) What the true impacts will be on existing transport customers,
- (b) Whether the promoted benefits actually outweigh the likely impacts and costs,
- (c) What the true costs will be to the remainder of the rail network to accommodate the operational changes that will be thrust upon it once the metro style NWRL removes the Epping to Chatswood line from the network.
- (d) How to rectify the problems the currently proposed configuration will generate – if necessary, reconfiguring the project accordingly.
- (e) Whether there has been any corruption or a lack of due diligence in the formulation of the currently proposed configuration of the project and the policies supporting it.

Conference resolves that our parliamentarians support a motion that the project should be reconfigured to allow integrated operation of services from NWRL onto the remainder of the rail network and directly through to the CBD.

Conference rejects the Government's assertion that single deck trains can hold 1300 passengers unless they have effectively no seats – which is unacceptable on a journey the length of the proposed NWRL.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

88. PENANT HILLS BRANCH

Conference calls for the State Labor Party to develop and implement an integrated transport plan that will ensure a sustainable growth in rail patronage that is proportionate, fair and affordable; and based on the proven concepts for rail network development that have been successfully implement in Sydney up until the completion of the Clearways Program.

When next in Government, Labor will discard the Coalition's faulty transport strategy.

Recommendation: Support.

89. QUEANBEYAN BRANCH

Conference notes that there is great concern within the community about the production of coal seam gas (CSG). Conference calls on NSW Labor to develop policies that reflect the following principles

- All members of the NSW community have a right to be involved in industry consultations about the development of non-conventional gas reserves;
- The rights of land owners are to be respected within

the existing legislation and that any changes to that legislation be undertaken only after consultations;

- A proper regulatory framework be implemented;
- Appropriate environmental guidelines relating to the use of water and any impact on water resources should be implemented;
- Reserving a proportion of gas produced for domestic consumption should be considered as part of the Party's energy policy.

Recommendation: Support.

90. RAIL, TRAM AND BUS UNION

Rail transport to the Western Sydney Airport

Preamble

Conference notes the Federal Government's announcement of the construction of a second airport in the Sydney Basin.

While the airport may make air travel more convenient for people in Western Sydney by reducing the need for time-consuming cross-town trips to Kingsford Smith Airport, this will only be achieved with better rail infrastructure connecting to the new airport.

Without a fast and efficient rail link to the Airport, commuters will be forced to use road transport, and will therefore add further congestion to the local road network.

The NSW Government has not committed to building a rail link to the Badgerys Creek site. While it has announced a preferred rail corridor, this will not be developed for at least ten years.

Furthermore, the preferred corridor announced by the State Government is indirect, and will require passengers coming from the city to endure a long and circuitous trip.

Without a fast, direct service linking the airport to both the city and Parramatta, the Badgerys Creek airport will not fulfill its potential for Sydney, and will only add to the city's transport congestion problems.

Resolution

NSW Labor:

- notes the proposed corridor to the new Western Sydney airport will not fulfil the requirement for a fast and direct rail service;
- supports the development of an integrated public transport plan for Sydney's south and west to ensure fast and direct access to the airport for local residents;
- is committed to providing fast, direct, affordable and accessible public transport to the new airport, including a direct rail link.

Recommendation: Support.

91. RAIL, TRAM AND BUS UNION

Rail Safety Standards

Preamble

NSW has the strongest rail safety laws in Australia.

These laws are a legacy of the Carr Labor Government, and came about following the McInerney Report into the Glenbrook and Waterfall rail disasters which together killed 14 people.

An important component of these laws is fatigue management. Under the NSW system, drivers have prescribed maximum shifts lengths, and minimum breaks between shifts.

The new National Rail Safety Law, which was introduced in January 2013, was an opportunity to bring the rest of the country up to the same level of safety that is ensured by regulation in NSW.

Unfortunately, the National Rail Safety Regulator opted to take a "lowest common denominator approach", and recommended that the least stringent standards be adopted nationwide.

NSW was granted a temporary 3-year exemption to the new national law for its fatigue management standards. At the end of the 3-year exemption, however, NSW will be required to conduct a review of those standards.

Watering down the current fatigue management standards would undo a critical rail safety legacy of the Carr Labor Government. It would be disrespectful to the scores of people killed and injured in the Glenbrook and Waterfall rail disasters, and leave people vulnerable to another tragedy on our railways.

Resolution

Conference reaffirms its support the rail safety improvements introduced by the Carr Labor Government, and commits to retaining the State's world-leading fatigue management standards for railway workers.

Recommendation: Support.

92. RAIL, TRAM AND BUS UNION

Fairer Public Transport Fares

Preamble

The underlying principle for charging public transport use in Australian cities is that the longer you travel, the more you pay.

One of the ironies in this system is that people who can afford to live in inner city suburbs have to pay the least for public transport. Conversely, people who can't afford to live close to the city, and have to live in outer suburban

or regional areas where real estate is more affordable, have to pay the most. The distance-based pricing model in NSW is unfair because it punishes people on low incomes who work in the city twice – by making them pay more, and making them spend more time commuting to and from work.

The Rail, Tram and Bus Union has proposed an alternative to the distance-based pricing model which effectively turns the current system on its head. The proposed model calculates fares according to the Socio-Economic Status of the area where passengers commence their travel.

The benefits of this model are that:

- it is inherently fairer from a social equity point of than the traditional distance-based fares structure.
- more people would catch public transport from the outer suburbs, which would lead to an increase in patronage and a marked decrease in urban traffic congestion; and
- more people would be encouraged to live further away from our crowded inner city areas; and

Of course, not everyone who lives in a wealthy area is necessarily wealthy, so the proposed model would preserves concession fares and seniors discounts, and includes a cheaper 'short trip' fare for people travelling short distances in the city.

The eligibility criteria for concessions would also need to be reviewed so that people on low incomes who live close to the city aren't penalized.

Resolution

NSW Labor:

- Supports moves to make the public transport fare structure more equitable; and
- Commits a future Labor Government to undertaking a feasibility study of the proposed SES model of calculating public transport fares.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

93. RICHMOND FEC

Conference:

1. Notes
 - (a) on the NSW North Coast there is overwhelming community opposition to Coal Seam Gas and Unconventional Gas mining and mining operations;
 - (b) the community's concern relates to the harmful effects of CSG mining on water quality , farm lands, the environment, communities, residents' health, and tourism ;
 - (c) the CSG industry has no social licence to

- operate on the NSW North Coast;
- (d) the NSW North Coast has unique environmental qualities; and
- (e) CSG mining is incompatible with the NSW North Coast's important employment sectors including tourism and agriculture;

2. Condemns the NSW Liberal/National Party Government's pro-CSG tracking, drilling and expansion agenda on the NSW North Coast; and
3. Calls on the NSW Labor Party to:
 - (a) support an immediate moratorium on all CSG activities and licences within the boundaries of the State Parliamentary seats of Lismore, Ballina, Clarence, and Tweed on the NSW North Coast; and
 - (b) support a declaration that the State Parliamentary seats of Lismore, Ballina, Clarence and Tweed be 'CSG Free' and therefore be off limits to the Coal Seam Gas and Unconventional Gas industries.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

94. SEFTON BRANCH

That NSW Labor develop and implement policies that will address the serious social issue of housing affordability in the Sydney metropolitan area, including:

- i. supporting grants and stamp duty exemptions for all first home buyers of homes with a purchase price not exceeding \$650,000.
- ii. limiting the availability of financial grants and stamp duty exemptions to first home buyers who have resided in New South Wales for no less than six months.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

95. SNOWY RIVER COOMA BRANCH

Climate change

Conference urges the party at all levels to maintain a strong position on the need to take effective measures to limit the emission of carbon dioxide as the only mechanism that can ameliorate the acceleration of global warming, and its impact on climate.

In formulating this motion, the following has been taken into consideration:

1. There is no point arguing about the reality of climate change. The science is in; it is real; the consequences will be severe.
2. Labor lost a lot of credibility with the unfortunate handling of the issue at federal level.

3. Abbott has put himself out on a limb on the issue, clearly aligning with the 'deniers'. Sooner or later, the momentum must swing back to a broader public acceptance of the gravity of the problem.
4. Even if that does not occur, Labor will not benefit by adopting a low profile, quasi-neutral position, from which it will be difficult to recover when the reality sinks in.

Recommendation: Support

96. STOCKTON BRANCH

Conference urges the establishment of a Federal Labor policy that provides a safe coal seam gas industry across Australia, especially ensuring that any nearby aquifers are kept safe from contamination.

Recommendation: Support.

97. SEFTON BRANCH

Conference calls on the State Government to retain the heavy rail into Newcastle.

Recommendation: Support.

98. TAMWORTH BRANCH

Conference notes the current NSW Labor policy regarding a moratorium on Coal Seam Gas (CSG) exploration until such time as further scientific evidence is gathered and presented relating to environmental issues. However, Conference further notes the agricultural significance of the black soil plains on the Liverpool Plains area and now calls for the exclusion of CSG exploration and extraction on this specific area.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

99. THE HILLS BRANCH

Conference acknowledges the national importance of being able to have a sustainable and readily available way to feed our nation without having to rely on overseas imports for our essential dietary needs such as fruits, vegetables, beef and poultry. Sourcing food locally be classified as a national security issue. Accordingly, essential food industry programs should be created to ensure the ongoing sustainability of these industries which should be able to prosper at a cost effective rate to the producer, consumer and government alike without the risk of cheap overseas imports destabilising food producing industries. Once gone these industries will take a decade to bring back online, if at all.

Recommendation: Support.

100. TOONGABBIE BRANCH

Conference calls upon the ALP to support a fresh options assessment for a second Sydney airport. This assessment would consider site options such as Wilton, Badgerys Creek, Goulburn and Dubbo; under the same restrictions as Mascot i.e. with a curfew from 11pm to 6am; and their access to rail, public transport and freeways.

Recommendation: Note. Conference refers to the announcement by NSW Labor Leader John Robertson about a Western Sydney airport.

101. TUMBI UMBI BRANCH

We support further investment in renewable energy research, the Australian production of materials which harness renewable sources such as wind turbines and solar panels, and the creation of clean economy jobs on the Coast.

Recommendation: Support.

102. TUMBI UMBI BRANCH

Conference is firmly opposed to the amalgamation of current councils and creation of new, super-councils. The Central Coast has a population of over 300 000 and the region continues to grow at one of the fastest rates in NSW. Given that this is the case, all tiers of government should be looking to expand the services available to this growing region, rather than reducing them. We are also very concerned about the possibility of rate rises being used as a political tool by the State Government to entice Councils into accepting the mergers in return for unlimited rate rises for the following 3 years. Furthermore local communities will struggle to have their concerns heard by Councils that now represent more than double the previous number of constituents.

Recommendation: Note. Labor is not opposed to voluntary amalgamations.

103. TUMUT GUNDAGAI JUGIONG BRANCH

Conference opposes the exploration and extraction of coal seam gas in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA) and its water catchment area.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

104. TWEED SEC

Conference

1. Notes that
 - (a) On the NSW North Coast there is overwhelming community opposition to Coal Seam Gas and Unconventional Gas mining and mining operations;
 - (b) The community's concern relates to the harmful effects of CSG mining on water quality,

- farm lands, the environment, communities, residents' health, and tourism;
 - (c) The CSG industry has no social licence to operate on the NSW North Coast;
 - (d) The NSW North Coast has unique environmental qualities; and
 - (e) CSG mining is incompatible with the NSW North Coast's important employment sectors including tourism and agriculture;
2. Condemns the NSW Liberal/National Party Government's pro-CSG tracking, drilling and expansion agenda on the NSW North Coast; and
 3. Calls on the NSW Labor Party to:
 - (a) support an immediate moratorium on all CSG activities and licences within the boundaries of the State Parliamentary seats of Lismore, Ballina, Clarence, and Tweed on the NSW North Coast; and
 - (b) support a declaration that the State Parliamentary seats of Lismore, Ballina, Clarence and Tweed be 'CSG Free' and therefore be off limits to the Coal Seam Gas and Unconventional Gas industries.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

105. TWEED COAST BRANCH

Conference

1. Notes that
 - (a) on the NSW North Coast there is overwhelming community opposition to Coal Seam Gas mining;
 - (b) the community's concern relates to the harmful effects of CSG mining on water quality, farm lands, the environment, communities, residents' health, and tourism;
 - (c) the CSG industry has no social licence to operate on the NSW North Coast;
 - (d) the NSW North Coast has unique environmental qualities; and
 - (e) CSG mining is incompatible with the NSW North Coast's important employment sectors including tourism and agriculture;
2. Conference condemns the NSW Liberal/National Party Government's pro-CSG fracking, drilling and expansion agenda on the NSW North Coast; and
3. Calls on the NSW Labor Party to:
 - (a) support an immediate moratorium on all CSG activities and licences within the boundaries

of the State Parliamentary seats of Lismore, Ballina, Clarence, and Tweed on the NSW North Coast; and

- b) support a declaration that the State Parliamentary seats of Lismore, Ballina, Clarence and Tweed be 'CSG Free' and therefore be off limits to the CSG industry."

Recommendation: Support in principle.

106. TWEED SEC

Conference calls on the New South Wales Government to declare an immediate moratorium on all Coal Seam Gas activities and licences within the boundaries of the State Parliamentary seats of Lismore, Ballina, Clarence and Tweed on the North Coast of New South Wales. Conference further calls on the New South Wales Government to declare these Parliamentary seats to be 'CSG Free' and thereafter off limits to the CSG industry.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

107. UNITED SERVICES UNION

The importance of voter participation in Local Government elections cannot be overlooked as a means of community expression of the approval or disapproval of

Council's elected officers. Any move to introduce universal postal voting at the elections should be opposed by this Conference as it may lead to reduced participation in the democratic process, and lead to voter confusion about voting methodology and candidate's affiliations.

The USU calls on Conference to oppose the introduction of universal postal voting at all tiers of Government.

Recommendation: Support.

108. UNITED SERVICES UNION

This Conference rejects any proposition to increase the term of a Mayor where elected by Councillors, one (1) year to beyond one year.

Recommendation: Support.

109. UNITED SERVICES UNION

The USU calls on Conference to endorse a policy for the provision of all Local Government Council services to the community, to be undertaken by Council employed day labour.

Recommendation: Support.

110. UNITED SERVICES UNION

The USU calls on State Conference to endorse the following motion to become Local Government policy:

Labour Hire or contract staff shall NOT be used to replace Local Government Council employees at ANY Local Government Authority. Any attempt to reduce job security or to replace award based positions in NSW local government must be opposed. Furthermore, labour hire and or contract labour shall not be used to undercut or reduce the wages and conditions of local government employees in NSW.

Recommendation: Support.

111. VIETNAMESE FRIENDS OF LABOR

That NSW Labor condemns the O'Farrell Government for cancelling the Cabramatta Commuter carpark, an area that is thriving with multicultural community and economic activity.

Recommendation: Support.

112. VIETNAMESE FRIENDS OF LABOR

That NSW Labor condemns the O'Farrell Government for not having a dedicated Minister for Housing, three years after being elected.

Recommendation: Support.

113. YOUNG LABOR

"The rent is too damn high" campaign

With rental prices at historic highs and vacancy rates at extreme lows, living out of home has become extremely difficult for young Australians, students in particular. The median inner city rent is in excess of \$580 per week and many inner city rooms alone especially those near universities cost in excess of \$200 per week.

Spiralling prices are being driven by perilously low vacancy rates hovering below 2% of all properties and a conspicuous absence of new supply. As a result, it is no surprise that many young Australians are forced to live at home well beyond the expiry date of their welcome.

For those where living at home is not an option the picture is just as bleak. With a substantial portion of young adults attending some form of educational institution, studying to be able to find decent work in the future and juggling work to be able study is becoming progressively a more difficult problem.

As Australia's largest political youth wing, NSW Young Labor has always prided itself on being an activist organisation campaigning on issues that matter.

NSW Labor endorses NSW Young Labor's campaign 'Rent is Too Damn High' and encourages future state Labor Governments to tackle NSW's worsening housing affordability crisis.

Recommendation: Support in principle. Refer to

relevant State Shadow Minister.

114. YOUNG LABOR

Liberals Neglect the Hunter

NSW Premier Mike Baird appointed Gladys Berejiklian as Minister for the Hunter, notwithstanding the fact that Berejiklian is in favour of cutting train services to Newcastle city from Sydney, the Central Coast and the Hunter.

Further, in his pursuit of the privatisation of Newcastle ports, Baird has ensured that minimal proceeds are returned to Newcastle and the Hunter region, and caused significant job losses.

The Baird Liberal Government has also determined to stop the building of new trains in Newcastle, preferring to outsource this to overseas builders at the cost of 3000 job losses.

NSW Labor condemns Mike Baird for neglecting the Hunter and showing total disregard for the needs of the Newcastle and Hunter regions in his policy decisions and ministerial appointments.

NSW Labor supports the retention of the Newcastle and Central Coast Line and the Hunter Line through to Newcastle and Civic Stations, and will oppose any moves to cut the train line at Wickham

Recommendation: Support.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

PLATFORM AMENDMENTS

1. NSW POLICY FORUM

A successful and effective education system does not evolve by chance, but by design. NSW Labor has made a significant contribution to improving the NSW education system whether it be smaller class sizes, implementing teaching standards, or our world standard curriculum. It is a legacy worth defending and building upon.

Our values are:

1. Equitable access to education is the foundation of a fairer society. A quality education is the right of every citizen and should be available to all.
2. Early education and care services lay the basis for lifelong learning and every child should be able to access a preschool program before they start school.
3. Public funding of education is an investment in our society's future and funding should be allocated according to need.
4. Schools and TAFE's must be accessible and provide appropriate support and a range of learning options for students with a disability and/or special needs.
5. Quality teaching is critical for successful learning outcomes for students, and teachers should have access to ongoing professional development opportunities.
6. Education and training policy must be evidence-based.
7. Parents are key partners in their child's learning and their involvement should be encouraged and supported. They are entitled to accurate information about how students and schools are performing.
8. Schools should be attractive, twenty-first century learning environments, well equipped with technology and age appropriate playgrounds and should be accessible to the community.
9. Schools should have high expectations of their students and encourage a love of learning. Assessment data and other information should be used to lift student performance.
10. Education is a lifelong process and access to vocational and academic streams must be available at all stages of life to all citizens.

GOALS FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- All children having access to a quality early childhood education prior to formal schooling.

- At least 90 per cent of students completing Year 12 or equivalent.
- Raise numeracy and literacy standards, with an increasing proportion of students exceeding national benchmarks in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 and fewer failing to meet acceptable standards.
- Ensure students with a disability and/or special needs receive appropriate support to fully participate in education and training so they can reach their full potential."
- All children having access to study a language other than English in primary school.
- Increase the number of students studying a language other than English to HSC level.
- Increase the number of students participating in organised sport in school.
- Close the achievement gap between indigenous and non-indigenous students.
- Increase the number of teachers seeking and gaining accreditation at higher levels.
- A quality vocational education and training system with TAFE as the pre-eminent provider.
- Lift the proportion of the population aged 15 to 64 participating in vocational education and training, with a particular focus on regional communities.

Recommendation: Amend Platform to insert before section 5.1, then renumber:

5.1 NSW Labor believes that:

- **Equitable access to education is the foundation of a fairer society. A quality education is the right of every citizen and should be available to all.**
- **Early education and care services lay the basis for lifelong learning and every child should be able to access a preschool program before they start school.**
- **Public funding of education is an investment in our society's future and funding should be allocated according to need.**
- **Schools and TAFE's must be accessible and provide appropriate support and a range of learning options for students with a disability and/or special needs.**
- **Quality teaching is critical for successful learning outcomes for students, and teachers should have access to ongoing professional development opportunities.**
- **Education and training policy must be evidence-based.**

- *Parents are key partners in their child's learning and their involvement should be encouraged and supported. They are entitled to accurate information about how students and schools are performing.*
- *Schools should be attractive, twenty-first century learning environments, well equipped with technology and age appropriate playgrounds and should be accessible to the community.*
- *Schools should have high expectations of their students and encourage a love of learning. Assessment data and other information should be used to lift student performance.*
- *Education is a lifelong process and access to vocational and academic streams must be available at all stages of life to all citizens.*

5.2 NSW Labor will:

- *Ensure that all children having access to a quality early childhood education prior to formal schooling.*
- *Ensure that at least 90 per cent of students completing Year 12 or equivalent.*
- *Raise numeracy and literacy standards, with an increasing proportion of students exceeding national benchmarks in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 and fewer failing to meet acceptable standards.*
- *Ensure students with a disability and/or special needs receive appropriate support to fully participate in education and training so they can reach their full potential."*
- *Ensure that all children having access to study a language other than English in primary school.*
- *Increase the number of students studying a language other than English to HSC level.*
- *Increase the number of students participating in organised sport in school.*
- *Close the achievement gap between indigenous and non-indigenous students.*
- *Increase the number of teachers seeking and gaining accreditation at higher levels.*
- *Provide a quality vocational education and training system with TAFE as the pre-eminent provider.*
- *Lift the proportion of the population aged 15 to 64 participating in vocational education and training, with a particular focus on regional communities.*

2. ERSKINEVILLE BRANCH/GLEBE BRANCH/SURRY HILLS BRANCH

LGBTI education

Preamble

The public draft national Health and Physical Education curriculum, developed by ACARA, is grossly inadequate with respect to the needs of LGBTI students. It does not even mention the words lesbian, gay or bisexual, only includes transgender and intersex in the glossary (and then does so erroneously in the same definition), doesn't even refer to HIV or other Blood Borne Viruses, and fails to include comprehensive sexual health education.

The curriculum review, currently being undertaken by Mr Kevin Donnelly and Mr Ken Wiltshire, on behalf of Commonwealth Education Minister Christopher Pyne, is only likely to make this situation worse. This places significant pressure on the NSW Government's implementation of the HPE curriculum in 2015/16. NSW must ensure that the curriculum implemented here serves the needs of all students, including LGBTI students.

Platform

After the heading Aboriginal and Multicultural Education after paragraph 5.25 on page 29, add a new heading/section:

"Inclusive education"

NSW understands the importance of a genuinely-inclusive curriculum, which addresses the needs of all students, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex students. This is particularly important in terms of implementing the national Health & Physical Education curriculum.

NSW Labor will ensure that the Health & Physical Education curriculum is implemented in NSW such that:

- It genuinely includes LGBTI students, with specific, detailed and supportive information on different sexual orientations and gender identities, and intersex status
- It ensures that all students are provided with an LGBTI-inclusive education, irrespective of whether they attend a government, private or religious school and
- It includes comprehensive sexual health education, including HIV and other blood borne viruses."

Recommendation: Amend Platform to insert new heading and section after 5.25:

Inclusive Education

5.26 NSW Labor understands the importance of a genuinely inclusive curriculum, which addresses the needs of all students. NSW Labor will ensure that the teaching of difference and diversity amongst individuals is embedded in the curriculum.

3. ERSKINEVILLE BRANCH/GLEBE BRANCH/SURRY HILLS BRANCH

Anti-Homophobia Programs in Schools

Preamble

The previous NSW Labor Government established the Proud Schools program, a three year pilot (2011-2013) aimed at addressing homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and anti-intersex discrimination in a small number of NSW schools. While the program has been reviewed, no announcement on its future, including whether Proud Schools will be continued, expanded, or replaced with an alternative program, has yet been made.

The high levels of discrimination and prejudice experienced by LGBTI students and young people, and the mental health and other issues experienced by those students, mean that an anti-homophobia program is needed across all NSW schools.

Platform

After the heading Aboriginal and Multicultural Education after paragraph 5.25 on page 29, add a new heading/section:

“LGBTI inclusive education

NSW Labor recognises that bullying and harassment on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status can have profound, negative effects on LGBTI people, including adverse mental health outcomes. This homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and anti-intersex discrimination has particularly harmful effects on LGBTI students and young people. NSW Labor commits to implementing a state-wide anti-homophobia program in all NSW schools to address this problem.”

Recommendation: Amend the platform to insert after 5.25 a new heading and section, then renumber:

Building safe and supportive schools

5.26 NSW Labor affirms the rights of all members of a school community to feel safe. NSW Labor will continue to implement strong anti-bullying programs in schools to address all forms of bullying.

4. YOUNG LABOR

Temporary Residents' Access to Public Education

Preamble

Access to free primary school education is a human right and is enshrined in Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Alarming, NSW remains the only state to charge migrants on temporary visas primary school fees of up to \$5,500 per child.

Often newly settled migrants are amongst the most economically disadvantaged members of our community and should not be forced to pay this exorbitant sum in order to gain access to a public service as essential as

primary school education.

Not only does this offend the basic principle that all children should have access to free education, it has the potential to act as a deterrent for new migrants who wish to settle in NSW. This contradicts the NSW Government's claim that they remain committed to entice more business migrants to the State.

Platform

NSW Labor recognises the importance of free and universal primary school education. Accordingly, NSW Labor supports the abolition of public primary school fees for temporary residents.

Recommendation: Amend Platform to insert after section 5.4, then renumber:

NSW Labor supports the principle of free education, with temporary business migrants who have the means to do so making a contribution to their child's education.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

AGENDA ITEMS

1. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Conference recognises that the future of the NSW economy depends upon the state's ability to produce sufficient numbers of workers with the skills and capabilities required to grow the economy and exploit opportunities offered by better global economic conditions. Support for apprenticeship training is crucial not just for young school leavers but for people wanting to transition industries or improve their skills and job opportunities.

Conference recognises that the recent federal budget cuts of \$524 million to apprenticeship programs and support will leave already struggling apprentices worse off. More than ten training and apprenticeship programs are being abolished, including the Accelerated Australian Apprenticeships Programme, National Workforce Development Fund, Australian Apprenticeship Access Programme and Step Into Skills Programme.

The Tools for Your Trade program provided Apprentices – the majority of whom earn well below the minimum wage – with an \$8000 grant to purchase the tools they need to become competent at their trade. This has been replaced with the Trade Support Loans Programme – which allows Apprentices to take out a loan of up to \$20,000 over the course of their apprenticeship, a scheme which the government has indicated is likely to be privatised.

These cuts will have drastic consequences for the future of industry and employment, while 457 temporary work visas are increasing as a means of dealing with skills shortages.

Labor in opposition will oppose cuts to vocational training and apprenticeship programs.

Labor in government will Labor in government will:

1. Support the current nationally recognised apprenticeship scheme provided through TAFE
2. Restore those programs cut in the recent federal budget
3. Expand training places for nationally recognised training in all state government enterprises and state owned corporations
4. Invest strategically in local infrastructure to maximise local employment, supported by mandatory ratios of apprentices/trainees/cadets relative to tradespeople on all government funded or supported projects
5. Review the current fees regime to enable recently redundant workers and those on reduced hours to undertake training that will enhance employment opportunities and allow our of work apprentices to

continue their training

6. Review apprenticeship management systems to provide more flexible arrangements for apprentices who become are redundant, such as access to group apprenticeship schemes, facilitate transfer to alternate employers, access to ongoing apprenticeship training schemes, flexible TAFE delivery and completion schedules, allowing for apprentices whose employment may be interrupted more than once, and out of trade apprentices

Recommendation: Support and refer to National Conference.

2. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Fee-free public preschools

That Conference notes current NSW Labor Policy is to ensure access to Early Childhood Education on a needs basis for all preschool aged children through the provision of a broad range of services including preschool.

Given the recent introduction of fees in public preschools, NSW Labor will:

- Reverse the decision to charge fees in public preschools and ensure free preschool classes at all public preschools at government primary schools; and
- Increase the number of public preschools to increase participation in early childhood education for the most disadvantaged members of the community by doubling the current number of public preschools (100) over four years.

Recommendation: Refer to Platform amendment 1.

3. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Conference notes that the Gonski education reforms are not only the biggest and best reform of our schooling system in a generation. They are also a vital part of creating a community where all children, regardless of their background or location have access to a world-class education.

Conference recognises that the Gonski schooling reforms are vital to an equitable, world class education system.

Labor in opposition and in government will support funding to ensure that the Gonski reforms are introduced with adequate funding to ensure their viability.

Recommendation: Support and refer to National Conference.

4. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Conference recognises that income should not be the

determinant of a person's access to higher education. The higher education sector does not operate like a typical market, and student choice is driven by more factors than price – meaning they could incur further debt depending on their plans for the future and preferred location or institution.

Under what will be a deregulated system of higher education, students in Australia will face an enormous fee increase and will be forced to consider whether they are willing to shoulder a particular level of debt. This is likely to lead to a 'two-tiered' style of education similar to the United States where 'Ivy League' universities are reserved for the privileged students who are able to incur a substantial level of debt.

Labor in opposition and in government will oppose the deregulation of university fees.

Recommendation: Support and refer to National Conference.

5. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Higher education: HELP scheme

Conference recognises that the Abbott government's HELP debts, which are tied to bond rates, with interest up to 6% are extortionate and neglects the impact increasing student debt will have on access to the system.

Labor in opposition and in government will support retaining the HELP system indexed at CPI and will not support a scheme that imposes interest rate debt as punishment for not being able to pay off the debt as soon as they are earning.

Recommendation: Support and refer to National Conference.

6. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Privatisation of HECS

Conference recognises that privatisation of Australia's HECS debt would give private companies a significant control over public higher education. This arrangement places an immense amount of bargaining power in the hands of the private sector and creates an incentive to burden students with more debt, with interest.

Labor in opposition and in government will oppose any attempt to privatise HECS.

Recommendation: Support and refer to National Conference.

7. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Youth Allowance at 18

Conference recognises that many students at university enter directly as school leavers and require financial

support to face the rising cost of living during their studies. Financial stress for students has significantly increased, having a significant impact on study, where 80 per cent of students are now required to work in order to survive at university.

Labor in opposition and in government will support a lowering of the 'age of independence' in order to recognise the independence of young people and allow payment of adult levels of benefit so that young people can live safely and in good health.

Recommendation: Support in principle and refer to National Conference.

8. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Equity targets for increased diversity in a deregulated higher education system.

Conference recognises that every Australian regardless of their background or socioeconomic status, should be able to access a high quality standard of higher education.

Labor in opposition and in government will support legislation that aims to increase participation by student from disadvantaged groups, including people with low incomes and indigenous people.

Labor in opposition and in government will support measures that provide for a base pool of funds for equity initiatives with additional needs based funding in addition to funding for success based on equity participation targets of entry and retention.

Recommendation: Support and refer to National Conference.

9. AUBURN BRANCH

The previous Labor Government instituted a program to replace demountable classrooms in our education system with permanent buildings that better enabled students to learn in comfort with appropriate facilities. This program was halted under the O'Farrell Liberal National Government. NSW Labor will invest \$2.2b over four years to replace 4000 demountable classrooms in NSW public schools. Priority will be given to those demountables that have been in use the longest.

Recommendation: Support. Refer to Platform amendment 1.

10. AUBURN BRANCH

NSW Labor recognises the absolutely vital role that Technical and Further Education plays in giving NSW citizens pathways to better jobs and more secure lives. NSW Labor will reverse the Liberal National Government's TAFE fee increases and cuts to courses such as fine arts at Hornsby and Brookvale TAFE.

Recommendation: Support. Refer to Platform

amendment 1.

11. AUBURN BRANCH

NSW Labor will conduct a commission of audit into the comparative effectiveness of taxpayer money spent on early intervention and education versus that spent on corrections and juvenile justice and justice reinvestment programs, with a view to moving the focus of state expenditures from punitive and corrections expenditure to early intervention and justice reinvestment strategies.

Recommendation: Support.

12. AUBURN BRANCH

NSW Labor, recognising the success of such programs in places such as the United Kingdom and Finland, in its first term, will begin the rollout of a program for universal and free access to early childhood education services for all children aged 3 and above, with the ultimate aim of providing, by the year 2025, free and universal childhood education of 15 hours per week for all children over 3 until they reach school age. The initial rollout of this program will focus on indigenous communities and areas of high social disadvantage, including rural and regional areas.

Recommendation: Support in principle. Conference notes the continued debate about the different methods of childcare and access to funding across all levels of Government. Conference acknowledges the work of the former Federal Labor Government for its record investment in Early Childhood Education and Care and its commitment to a quality childhood sector.

13. BLACKTOWN SEC

TAFE funding and programs particularly with trade courses and skill shortage areas be enhanced and developed to encourage youth to develop their skills after the recent funding cut backs from the current conservative Government. Youth and adults particularly those vulnerable due to long-term unemployment are losing training opportunities that help gain access to labour markets.

Recommendation: Support. Refer to Platform amendment 1.

14. CONSTRUCTION, FORESTRY, MINING AND ENERGY UNION

There is much said about the skills shortage, however, this is not going to be arrested by dismembering the traditional apprenticeship and traineeship system as suggested by some. The NSW Liberal Government is in the process of dismantling TAFE. Tradespeople should be afforded high quality training opportunities and outcomes. One of the main disincentives for apprentices is the low wages that are paid to them whilst training and the lack of job

opportunities.

Conference calls on the NSW Labor to support the apprenticeship system and advocate for reforms to improve resourcing of high quality training through TAFE, and to address the need to improve completion rates by supporting the increase of apprentice wages and conditions and providing great incentive for employers to take on apprentices and retain them as tradespeople. NSW Labor should support use of Government procurement policy to further drive engagement of apprentices and trainees.

Recommendation: Support. Refer to Platform amendment 1.

15. DOONSDALE BRANCH

TAFE funding and programs particularly with trade courses and skill shortage areas be enhanced and developed to encourage youth to develop their skills after the recent funding cut backs from the current conservative Government. Youth and adults particularly those vulnerable due to long-term unemployment are losing training opportunities that help gain access to labour markets.

Recommendation: Support. Refer to Platform amendment 1.

16. DOUBLE BAY BELLEVUE HILL BRANCH

Conference calls on State Parliamentary Labor Party to ensure that:

- TAFE NSW is maintained as the major provider of vocational education and training in NSW;
- Funding is restored to TAFE so that it can deliver quality education in a wide range of industry areas in all current TAFE campuses;
- The Baird Government does not divert funding from TAFE to create an artificial training market;
- TAFE remains accessible by keeping fees low in specialist units such as Outreach, Aboriginal, Multicultural, Disabilities, Language Literacy and Numeracy, and Counselling. These units provide support and education to students who may have additional learning needs;
- TAFE is resourced to address the needs of all students, including those requiring second-chance and further education; and
- High quality educational standards with professionally qualified teachers are maintained in TAFE

Recommendation: Support. Refer to Platform amendment 1.

17. ELECTRICAL TRADES UNION

Conference Condemns the Baird Government for cutting TAFE resources and increasing fees for students including electrical, plumbing and building trade apprentices. Further this conference calls on the NSW Parliamentary Labor Party to engage with the community, TAFE students and relevant unions to develop a sustainable and secure TAFE model for future generations.

Recommendation: Support. Refer to Platform amendment 1.

18. HAWKESBURY BRANCH

NSW Labor will conduct a commission of audit into the comparative effectiveness of taxpayer money spent on early intervention and education versus that spent on corrections and juvenile justice and justice reinvestment programs, with a view to moving the focus of state expenditures from punitive and corrections expenditure to early intervention and justice reinvestment strategies.

Recommendation: Support.

19. HAWKESBURY BRANCH

NSW Labor, recognising the success of such programs in places such as the United Kingdom and Finland, in its first term, will begin the rollout of a program for universal and free access to early childhood education services for all children aged 3 and above, with the ultimate aim of providing, by the year 2025, free and universal childhood education of 15 hours per week for all children over 3 until they reach school age. The initial rollout of this program will focus on indigenous communities and areas of high social disadvantage, including rural and regional areas.

Recommendation: Support in principle. Conference notes the continued debate about the different methods of childcare and access to funding across all levels of Government. Conference acknowledges the work of the former Federal Labor Government for its record investment in Early Childhood Education and Care and its commitment to a quality childhood sector.

20. KATOOMBA BRANCH

Conference calls on State Labor to urgently campaign inside and outside Parliament to ensure that:

- TAFE NSW is maintained as the major provider of vocational education and training in this state;
- funding is restored to TAFE so that it can deliver quality education in a wide range of industry areas on all current TAFE campuses;
- the Baird Government does not divert funding from TAFE to create an artificial training market;
- TAFE remains accessible by keeping fees low;

- specialist units such as Outreach, Aboriginal, Multicultural, Disabilities, Language Literacy and Numeracy, and Counselling, which provide support and education to students who may have additional learning needs, are kept in TAFE;
- TAFE is resourced to address the needs of all students, including those requiring second-chance and further education, and prevented from being forced into a for-profit model of operation; and
- high quality educational standards with professionally qualified teachers are maintained in TAFE.

Recommendation: Support. Refer to Platform amendment 1.

21. MACQUARIE BRANCH

The previous Labor Government instituted a program to replace demountable classrooms in our education system with permanent buildings that better enabled students to learn in comfort with appropriate facilities. This program was halted under the O'Farrell Liberal National Government. NSW Labor will invest \$2.2b over four years to replace 4000 demountable classrooms in NSW public schools. Priority will be given to those demountables that have been in use the longest. Schools using demountables to deal with increased student populations will have their resource needs reviewed and assistance provided for items such as Out of School Hours Care and Computing resources.

Recommendation: Support. Refer to Platform amendment 1.

22. MACQUARIE BRANCH

NSW Labor recognises the absolutely vital role that Technical and Further Education plays in giving NSW citizens pathways to better jobs and more secure lives. NSW Labor will reverse the O'Farrell Liberal National Government's TAFE fee increases and cuts to courses such as fine arts at Hornsby, Meadowbank and Brookvale TAFE."

Recommendation: Support. Refer to Platform amendment 1.

23. MACQUARIE BRANCH

NSW Labor will conduct a Commission of Audit into the comparative effectiveness of taxpayer money spent on early intervention and education versus that spent on corrections and juvenile justice and justice reinvestment programs, with a view to moving the focus of state expenditures from punitive and corrections expenditure to early intervention and justice reinvestment strategies.

Recommendation: Support.

24. MACQUARIE BRANCH

NSW Labor, recognising the success of such programs in places such as the United Kingdom and Finland, in its first term, will begin the rollout of a program for universal and free access to early childhood education services for all children aged 3 and above, with the ultimate aim of providing, by the year 2025, free and universal childhood education of 15 hours per week for all children over 3 until they reach school age. The initial rollout of this program will focus on indigenous communities and areas of high social disadvantage, including rural and regional areas.

Recommendation: Support in principle. Conference notes the continued debate about the different methods of childcare and access to funding across all levels of Government. Conference acknowledges the work of the former Federal Labor Government for its record investment in Early Childhood Education and Care and its commitment to a quality childhood sector.

25. MAYFIELD BRANCH

Conference recognises the absolutely vital role that Technical and Further Education plays in giving NSW citizens pathways to better jobs and more secure lives. NSW Labor will reverse the Liberal/National Government's TAFE fee increases and cuts to Fine Arts in Newcastle.

Recommendation: Support in principle. Refer to Platform amendment 1.

26. MURRAY DARLING SEC

Conference condemns the Baird Government for closing regional offices and dismantling the teacher transfer incentive scheme of accumulated transfer points. This will impact on small rural schools, especially schools in western NSW.

Recommendation: Support.

27. NEWCASTLE FEC

Conference opposes any Budget initiative to limit the tax deductibility of self-education expenses to \$2,000 per annum. Self-education and continuing education are crucial to the development of skills for all Australian workers and should be encouraged by the Government. This limit discourages education and will ultimately have a negative effect on the productivity of the workforce.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

28. PENANT HILLS BRANCH

Conference requests that the Labor Party take strong measures to support TAFE against sackings, budget cuts and college closures in order to prevent the NSW Liberal State Government from privatising TAFE.

Recommendation: Support. Refer to Platform

amendment 1.

29. STATE PARLIAMENTARY LABOR PARTY

An incoming NSW Labor Government will move quickly to address the looming crisis in skills formation and retention caused in great part by the privatization policies of NSW Liberal Governments. This will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Abolition of the "Smart and Skilled" funding regime which shifts funding responsibilities to individual students and is starving the TAFE network of funding.
2. Restoration of funding to TAFE to ensure it is the prominent provider of vocational training in NSW.
3. Conduct an independent inquiry into the development and implementation of tendering processes associated with Smart and Skilled and the impact of this regime on skills development, access to VET and the meeting of the needs of individuals and industry to inform the reform of VET system.
4. Hold a NSW Skills and Training Summit with industry and other stakeholder representation to identify skills and training needs into the future and chart a course to meet them with TAFE as the prominent provider.

Recommendation: Support. Refer to Platform amendment 1.

30. STOCKTON BRANCH

Conference opposes any Budget initiative to limit the tax deductibility of self-education expenses to \$2,000 per annum. Self-education and continuing education are crucial to the development of skills for all Australian workers and should be encouraged by the Government. This limit discourages education and will ultimately have a negative effect on the productivity of the workforce.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

31. THE ENTRANCE SEC

Education policy: Gosford high school selection process

Preamble

Currently there is no catchment area for Gosford High School which is the only selective high school on the Central Coast. Students are currently being forced to compete for places within the school with students from areas such as the North Shore.

Resolution

Conference asks to introduce a catchment system where Gosford High school would be for Central Coast students only.

Recommendation: Reject.

32. THE HILLS BRANCH

That State Labor urgently campaign both inside and outside Parliament to ensure that:

- (a) TAFE NSW is maintained as the major provider of vocational education and training in this state
- (b) Funding is restored to TAFE so that it can deliver quality education in a wide range of industry areas on all current TAFE campuses
- (c) The O'Farrell Liberal Government does not divert funding from TAFE to create an artificial training market
- (d) TAFE remains accessible by keeping TAFE fees low
- (e) Specialist units such as Outreach, Aboriginal, Multicultural, Disabilities, Language literacy and Numeracy, and Counselling, which provide support and education to students who may have additional learning needs, are kept by TAFE
- (f) TAFE is resourced to address the needs of all students, including those requiring second-chance and further education, and prevent TAFE being forced into a for-profit model of operation
- (g) High quality educational standards with professionally qualified teachers are maintained in TAFE."

Recommendation: Support. Refer to Platform amendment 1.

33. THIRROUL BRANCH

Conference calls on NSW Labor to urgently campaign to ensure that:

- TAFE NSW is maintained as the major provider of vocational education & training in this state
- Funding is restored to TAFE so that it can deliver quality education in a wide range of industry areas on all current TAFE campuses
- The Baird Government does not divert funding from TAFE to create an artificial training market TAFE remains accessible by keeping TAFE fees low
- Specialist units such as Outreach, Aboriginal, Multicultural, Disabilities, Language Literacy and Numeracy, and Counselling, which provide support and education to students who may have additional learning needs, are kept in TAFE
- TAFE is resourced to address the needs of all students, including those requiring second-chance and further education, and prevent TAFE being

forced into a for-profit model of operation

- High quality educational standards with professionally qualified teachers are maintained in TAFE

Recommendation: Support. Refer to Platform amendment 1.

34. UNITED SERVICES UNION

The United Services Union believes that training is essential to women's advancement in the workplace. The USU calls on the next NSW Labor Government to enact new programs that provide women with greater opportunities for traineeships, apprenticeships and scholarships.

Recommendation: Support.

35. UNITED SERVICES UNION

The United Services Union calls on NSW Labor to reject the State Government's cuts to public education.

Recommendation: Support.

36. UNITED SERVICES UNION

The United Services Union calls on NSW Labor to oppose the NSW State Government's cuts to TAFE, which have reduced the number of courses available and increased costs for people seeking to develop their skills thus putting up barriers to further retraining and employment opportunities.

Recommendation: Support. Refer to Platform amendment 1.

37. UNITED SERVICES UNION

The United Services Union calls on NSW Labor to support TAFE, and calls on the next NSW Labor when returned to government to increase funding for TAFE.

Recommendation: Support. Refer to Platform amendment 1.

38. UNITED VOICE

Fee-free public preschools

There are 100 public preschools in NSW, attached to government primary schools. In line with public education more broadly, fees were not charged to families of children enrolled in these preschools. In 2012, the O'Farrell Government introduced fees for public preschools.

Greater recognition is now being given to the importance of preschools and other early childhood education. The recent National Quality Agenda agreement features a range of strategic directions and initiatives spanning quality of education and care of young children; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early childhood development; early childhood workforce development; and universal access

to early childhood education.

The universal access goals are formalised in the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education, signed by all Australian Governments.

Universal access means every child having access to a structured, play-based early childhood education program in the 12 months prior to full-time schooling.

Under the Agreement, New South Wales has agreed that all children in New South Wales will have access to a quality early childhood education program in the 12 months prior to formal schooling by 2013.

Action/Resolution

That Conference:

Notes that current NSW Labor Policy is to ensure access to Early Childhood Education on a needs basis for all preschool aged children through the provision of a broad range of services including preschool. Given the recent introduction of fees in public preschools, NSW Labor will:

- Reverse the decision to charge fees in public preschools and ensure free preschool classes at all public preschools at government primary schools; and
- Increase the number of public preschools to increase participation in early childhood education for the most disadvantaged members of the community by doubling the current number of public preschools (100) over four years

Recommendation: Refer to proposed Platform amendment.

39. YOUNG LABOR

Commitment to Early Childhood Education and Care Reform

The Labor Party has a proud history on education and reform: uncapping student places at university, HECS-HELP, delivering the Gonski Reforms, Trades Training Centres in schools and the National Quality Framework for early childhood centres. We must protect the reforms we've achieved and push for more progressive action.

NSW Labor supports the principles of the Labor Education and Reform Network (LEARNLabor), a network of teachers, parents and education activists from early childhood education and care, schools and TAFE, to give the next generation the best education. AYL believes that future educators deserve access to quality tertiary training and abhors the actions of Liberal State governments and their attacks on TAFE funding.

NSW Labor supports and advocates for pay equity to attract and retain quality educators into the profession because children deserve access to affordable quality early education with consistent educators. Consequently, NSW Labor supports the Big Steps campaign by United Voice to win professional wages in order to build a quality

early childhood education and care system in Australia.

NSW Labor also believes that it is important for state governments to implement policies to ensure that Registered Training Organisations are providing quality training for future educators, and that Labor should be to work to uphold the National Quality Framework as an essential piece of legislation for quality reform in early education & care for now and into the future.

Recommendation: Support.

40. YOUNG LABOR

Fees at public pre-schools

Preamble

The NSW Department of Education operates pre-schools at over 100 different locations around the state. These pre-schools are open to children the year before they begin their primary school education and many sites are centred in areas of low socio-economic status. The NSW Liberal Government has begun charging between \$10 and \$40 a day for each child for this formerly free service.

These actions have been condemned by the NSW Teachers' Federation and the NSW Opposition as they targets families in disadvantaged areas and may result in many children being denied the opportunity to attend pre-schools. This is a grossly unfair policy, which targets lower socio-economic families at a huge cost to local communities and is a relatively low saving to the State Budget.

NSW Labor calls for the abolition of fees at public pre-schools and calls for a fairer approach to this pressing issue. This policy disadvantages the most needy in society and will prevent children accessing early childhood education. NSW Labor condemns the imposition of fees in public school pre-schools, regardless of the savings it affords the government.

Recommendation: Refer to proposed Platform amendment to insert new section 5.1 and 5.2.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND RECONCILIATION

PLATFORM AMENDMENTS

1. YOUNG LABOR

Supporting Indigenous Languages

Preamble

Quality education for all Indigenous Australians is fundamental for self-determination, reconciliation and breaking the poverty cycle. Unfortunately the gap in education and literacy standards between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities is still vast. As things currently stand on 10% of Indigenous students graduate high school compared to the 78% of non-Indigenous students, 15% of Indigenous adults will obtain vocational qualifications compared to the 48% of non-Indigenous adults, and only 4% of Indigenous adults have obtained a Bachelor degree or high compared to the 26% of non-Indigenous adults. Academics and Indigenous leaders agree that the gap in Indigenous education could be counter through engagement with Indigenous culture.

Indigenous languages is a binding force in Indigenous culture due to its oral traditions. It is not simply a way to converse in the everyday, it was the central vehicle to communicate and illuminate Indigenous culture, history and spirituality. Prior to European settlement, more than 250 distinct Indigenous languages were spoken across the country. Sadly, only 15 Indigenous languages remain that are spoken by all age groups. Indigenous Australian culture is the world's longest surviving continuous culture and its heritage and survival should be not only of significance to Indigenous Australians, but also broader Australian society as it forms part of our national identity.

Leading Indigenous educator Chris Sarra believes that by fostering student's pride in their Indigenous culture and heritage at school can significantly impact their educational outcomes. It contributes to a more positive self-image and outlook which is crucial for self-esteem in a child's formative years. Schools that have actively engaged Indigenous students with their culture and language, through bilingual education, have recorded increased school attendance, community involvement, and student retention through to the 12th grade.

Platform

NSW Labor recognises the impact of European settlement, and successive government policies have had on Indigenous language and therefore the Indigenous community's ability to engage in the oral traditions.

NSW Labor believes that active promotion of Indigenous culture in the education of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students is crucial for fostering self-esteem,

respect and better educational and social outcomes for all students.

NSW Labor believes that as language is central to Indigenous culture's oral tradition, this should be one of the many areas of education where Indigenous culture is fostered and celebrated. NSW Labor believes that in the development of the national curriculum, government should consider the following proposals:

- That elective Indigenous language courses be developed and available for study in the same way that European and Asian languages are.
- Where feasible and appropriate, bilingual education be implemented as it has been in 9 Northern Territory Indigenous schools.

Recommendation: Amend Platform to insert after section 7.35, then renumber:

7.36 NSW Labor recognises that the active promotion of Indigenous culture in the education of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students is crucial for fostering self-esteem, respect and better educational and social outcomes for all students.

7.37 NSW Labor believes that as language is central to Indigenous culture's oral tradition, this should be one of the many areas of education where Indigenous culture is fostered and celebrated. NSW Labor will consider elective Indigenous language courses being developed and made available for study in the same way as is currently the case for European and Asian languages.

2. TUMBI UMBI BRANCH

We support the continued elevation of the status of Indigenous Australians, which includes recognition and inclusion of Aboriginal peoples in the Constitution. Thus a review of Closing the Gap strategies should be undertaken; moreover consultation with local Aboriginal elders and groups is essential for this as it helps us understand the needs of local Aboriginal communities.

Recommendation: Amend platform to insert after 7.1, then renumber:

7.2 NSW Labor endorses Federal Labor's support for the recognition and inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution, and the removal of sections that allow discrimination on the basis of race.

3. TUMBI UMBI BRANCH

Conference calls for the recognition and inclusion of Indigenous people in the Australian Constitution.

Recommendation: Refer to recommendation to Platform amendment 2.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND RECONCILIATION

AGENDA ITEMS

1. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Justice Reinvestment for Aboriginal Young People

That Conference notes that NSW Labor is committed to reducing the incarceration rate of Indigenous people; however the statistics remain significantly out of proportion. In order to stem the tide of young Aboriginal people in the detention centres of NSW and begin to lower incarceration rates, NSW Labor will:

- Support the current campaign, 'Justice Reinvestment for Aboriginal Young People';
- Undertake a review of international case studies to investigate successful methods of justice reinvestment being trialed around the world, including analysis of cost savings; and
- Hold a trial to:
 - Identify the criteria applying justice reinvestment as an option for Indigenous youth convicted of offences that would otherwise result in a term of imprisonment;
 - Identify the criteria applying justice reinvestment Divert some Government funding from detention centres to increase community based, culturally specific prevention, early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation services;
 - Identify the criteria applying justice reinvestment Conduct an independent review of the justice reinvestment trial, and if successful, commit to expanding the program.

Recommendation: Support.

2. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Aboriginal Culture and Heritage Legislation

Conference recognises that NSW is the only state in Australia without stand alone Aboriginal culture and heritage legislation. Legislation specifically relating to Aboriginal heritage and cultural protection is contained within various instruments of legislation in NSW, namely the Heritage Act of 1977 and the National Parks & Wildlife Act of 1974.

Labor in opposition and in government will engage Aboriginal communities, land councils and other Indigenous representatives in consultation toward the

introduction of specific Aboriginal culture and heritage legislation in a stand alone Act in NSW. Such an Act would have as its main objective the ongoing preservation and protection of Aboriginal heritage and culture. This would be similar in function to the Federal Government's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act of 1984 but applies specifically to the state of NSW.

Recommendation: Support.

3. UNITED VOICE

Justice Reinvestment for Aboriginal Young People

Young Aboriginal people make up 2.2% of the population of NSW, but account for more than 50% of the detention population. This over-representation, a factor greater than 20, clearly shows the need for radical change in the approach to juvenile justice for Indigenous youth.

Justice reinvestment is a new approach that seeks to shift spending allocated for prisons towards community-based programs and services that address the factors that contribute to criminal behaviour in young people. Not only does this interrupt the repetitive cycle in and out of prison, a deterrent that is clearly unsuccessful in many cases, it substantially reduces the cost of punishing and rehabilitating offenders.

The NSW Audit Office reported that the 2011 average daily cost of supervising and caring for juvenile offenders in detention was \$652 per person per day or \$237,980 annually. If action is not taken, this figure will only grow.

International research, while still in its early phase, has shown that justice reinvestment has the potential for substantial benefits to rates of recidivism and incarceration, while reducing the taxpayer burden of funding new prisons and the expensive day-to-day supervision of inmates.

Resolution

That Conference:

Notes that NSW Labor is committed to reducing the incarceration rate of Indigenous people; however the statistics remain significantly out of proportion. In order to stem the tide of young Aboriginal people in the detention centres of NSW and begin to lower incarceration rates, NSW Labor will:

- Support the current campaign, 'Justice Reinvestment for Aboriginal Young People';
- Undertake a review of international case studies to investigate successful methods of justice reinvestment being trialed around the world, including analysis of cost savings; and
- Hold a trial to:
 - Identify the criteria applying justice reinvestment as an option for Indigenous youth convicted of

offences that would otherwise result in a term of imprisonment;

- Divert some Government funding from detention centres to increase community based, culturally specific prevention, early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation services;
- Conduct an independent review of the justice reinvestment trial, and if successful, commit to expanding the program.

Recommendation: Support.

4. UNITED VOICE

Aboriginal Culture and Heritage Legislation

NSW ALP Conference notes NSW is the only state in Australia without stand alone Aboriginal culture and heritage legislation.

Legislation specifically relating to Aboriginal heritage and cultural protection is contained within various instruments of legislation in NSW, namely the Heritage Act of 1977 and the National Parks & Wildlife Act of 1974.

NSW ALP Conference calls on the NSW Government to engage Aboriginal communities, land councils and other Indigenous representatives in further consultation with the view for introducing specific Aboriginal culture and heritage legislation in a stand alone Act in NSW. Such an Act would have as its main objective the ongoing preservation and protection of Aboriginal heritage and culture. This would be similar in function to the Federal Government's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act of 1984 but applies specifically to the state of NSW.

Recommendation: Support.

OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE

PLATFORM AMENDMENTS

1. AUBURN BRANCH

NSW Labor will not pursue further major asset sales or long term leases.

Recommendation: Refer to recommendation for Platform amendment 3.

2. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION/THE HILLS BRANCH

Industry Policy – Government procurement Policy (Platform amendment)

NSW government industry policy should be a whole of government commitment to the NSW economy. As the chief agent for industry development, government decision-making has a critical impact on local industry. Its decisions should support progressive structural change in our economy; transitioning NSW towards an environmentally sustainable and economically prosperous future that is socially just.

Government procurement policy is a powerful tool in good industry policy. It should harness the total spend of government towards economic activity: building industry capability, creation and retention of local jobs, skills, technology transfer and emerging industries.

In a period of extended global economic uncertainty, compounded by decades of domestic neglect and mismanagement by federal coalition governments it is increasingly difficult for NSW manufacturing to compete.

Without a commitment by government to utilise procurement policy in support of local industry, large sections of NSW tradeable goods and services industries will be downsized and many skills and capabilities will be lost. These skills and capabilities are not easily replaced and they do not simply “re-appear” in the resources sector.

A NSW Jobs First Policy

A NSW Jobs First Policy should be founded on the principle that government procurement is an essential tool in the development of industry capability and economic activity while still achieving value-for-money objectives; where ‘value for money’ is considered in terms of the broader economic benefit rather than simply the ‘lowest price’. Key elements of a NSW Jobs First Policy:

- It should apply to whole-of-government procurement, including state owned corporations and construction
- It should include a price preference scheme for local

content on all government tenders above \$750K.

- It should include an additional price preference margin for regional and remote SME's
- It should include additional preference for tenders that can demonstrate local investment, local job retention and job creation, retention and creation of jobs for apprentices and trainees, increased skills and technology transfer, regional economic benefit, import replacement
- There should be a broad interpretation of definitions imposed by free trade treaties
- That any NSW State Government purchase of trains, buses & ferries will be designed, built and maintained within the state of NSW.

Recommendation: Amend Platform to add as a new first point to section 3.16:

- **Government action should ensure that local manufacturers are preferred suppliers and local jobs are taken into consideration when awarding major contracts.**

3. AUSTRALIAN SERVICES UNION/UNITED SERVICES UNION/ELECTRICAL TRADES UNION

Privatisation of Public Assets

3.35 NSW Labor is committed to the development of a strong, dynamic and relevant public sector.

3.36 NSW Labor rejects the notion that income-producing enterprises should not be owned by the State. NSW Labor rejects the notion of privatisation of public services. This includes but is not limited to essential services, public enterprises and state owned corporations, their subsidiaries and utilities, including: electricity, water, data and telecommunications, transport, ports, hospitals, schools and vocational training, primary industries, public land, any other Government service delivery agency and Local Government.

3.37 NSW Labor believes that privatisation of public assets should not be undertaken in an attempt to address underlying government revenue problems.

3.38 NSW Labor is committed to the continual improvement in the management and delivery of services of public assets and state owned corporations. To this end NSW Labor will work with stake holders including representatives from the community, environmental movement, trade unions and government.

3.39 NSW Labor supports the continued use of Corporatisation for large scale public trading assets including electricity, water, gas, data and telecommunications, transport and primary industries. Such State Owned Corporations should be subject to

provisions contained within the State Owned Corporations Act 1989.

Public assets and services conducted by Local Government are an integral part of service delivery. Such assets and services should be subject to the Local Government Act 1993.

Private Sector Involvement in Public Service Delivery.

3.40 NSW Labor believes in a strong, sustainable and efficient public service.

Where the involvement of private sector providers (contracting out) are considered NSW Labor is committed to the following process:

1. Each case is to be considered on its merits to determine whether particular existing delivery of public services provide the best outcome and benefit to the community in its current or some other form.
2. A broad social and economic "cost/benefit" analysis for any proposed private sector involvement (contracting out) in the delivery of public infrastructure or services in order to determine if such private sector involvement is in the public interest.
3. Establish a committee including equal representatives of government, community and consumer/end user groups and trade unions to examine any proposed changes to the status and/or standing of a public sector body, service, utility or asset. The role of this committee shall be to take public submissions and make its own investigations regarding any proposal for the contracting out of government services or part thereof. Based on these submissions and findings, the committee will prepare an impact statement on the proposed changes. The committee will in the formulation of its impact statement, ensure that each of the following criteria are examined and shall not recommend any changes that do not meet the criteria overall.

CRITERIA

- (a) The direct and indirect social usefulness of a public service or utility or part thereof.
- (b) Whether the delivery of a service or utility or part thereof remains valid and whether these provisions may be delivered through ongoing existing arrangements or acceptable alternative inhouse arrangements.
- (c) The impact on specific groups or regional areas especially those groups or regional areas that are disadvantaged.
- (d) The assessment should include all factors including real costs when comparing public service delivery v private service delivery,

including regulation and compliance, cost of rectification works, potential negative social outcomes and potential compensation.

- e) The impact on employment, skills, training and conditions and the protection of the existing workforce including the protection of industrial relations practices and secure transfer arrangements.
- f) Any environmental impact and the need to enhance environmental protection.
- g) Appropriate weighting of long-term, short-term and medium term considerations including private sector performance, loss of government/public control and public interest.
- h) Contract terms of any private contract including workplace conditions and entitlements and stake holder (government, users, employee) protections.

3.41 The Criteria outlined above provides a broad basis to analyse any proposed private sector involvement in the delivery of public services, utilities or part thereof while providing a fair comparison and evaluation process.

3.42 Should the above criteria not be met the committee shall not make any recommendations supporting the introduction of private sector (contracting) involvement.

Recommendation: Refer existing sections 3.35-3.39 of the Platform to Conference.

4. AUSTRALIAN SERVICES UNION

This conference affirms support for the public ownership, management and maintenance of water infrastructure, including water catchments, water treatment plants, sewerage treatment plants and water networks.

Recommendation: Amend Platform to insert new heading and section after 3.67, then renumber:

Public Utilities

3.68 NSW Labor affirms support for the public ownership, management and maintenance of water infrastructure, including water catchments, water treatment plants, sewerage treatment plants and water networks.

5. AUSTRALIAN SERVICES UNION

This conference is opposed to the sale of, our outsourcing of work from, the Sydney Catchment Authority, Sydney Water, Hunter Water and any other publicly owned water providers.

Recommendation: Refer to recommendation for Platform amendment 4.

6. AUSTRALIAN SERVICES UNION

Conference notes that government owned water entities are able to balance equitable service to citizens while returning a profit to government. Conference acknowledges the consistent profit delivered by Sydney Water Corporation to the NSW Government – over \$1billion dollars in the last 5 years – and notes that this is achieved while providing community and environmental programs such as support to protect citizens during times of hardship.

Recommendation: Refer to recommendation for Platform amendment 4.

7. AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION

Insert a new 3.18 (and renumber all following items in Chapter 3):

Conservative Governments have recklessly outsourced important aspects of the NSW Public Service with no regard to empirical research showing that these tasks are more effectively, efficiently in the public interest to be undertaken by the public service. One recent example is the complete contracting out of the Sydney metropolitan road construction and service division of the Roads and Maritime Service. NSW Labor will review all areas tendered out by the Conservative Government and where appropriate, these areas are to be returned into the control of the public service.

Recommendation: Refer to recommendation for Platform amendment 3.

8. ELECTRICAL TRADES UNION

Conference reaffirms its total opposition to the privatisation or leasing out of the NSW electricity distribution and transmission networks including the operations of TransGrid, Essential Energy, Ausgrid, Endeavour Energy and Networks NSW. Further, conference supports the retention of essential services and natural monopolies including the electricity network in public ownership.

Recommendation: Refer to recommendation to Platform amendment 4. Insert new section after proposed new section 3.68:

3.69 NSW Labor reaffirms its total opposition to the privatisation or leasing out of the NSW electricity distribution and transmission networks including the operations of TransGrid, Essential Energy, Ausgrid, Endeavour Energy and Networks NSW. Further, Conference supports the retention of essential services and natural monopolies including the electricity network in public ownership.

9. HAWKESBURY BRANCH

NSW Labor will not pursue further major asset sales or

long term leases.

Recommendation: Refer to recommendation for Platform amendment 3.

10. NEWCASTLE FEC

Conference asks the Labor Party to support legislation to prevent the sale of public utilities overseas, as vital infrastructure should remain under the control of Australians.

Recommendation: Refer to recommendation for Platform amendment 3.

11. NSW POLICY FORUM

Small businesses are the core of our economy. They are estimated to comprise some 96 per cent of all businesses and there are two million across Australia. Together, these enterprises provide half of the employment opportunities in our society. In New South Wales there are 650,000 small businesses providing employment for half of the workforce. The health of the small business sector is therefore of vital concern for our party.

Small businesses face many challenges and not all of them are readily amenable to government support.

Each sector of industry has its own complexities and challenges.

However, there are some themes that link small businesses, regardless of the products and services they provide or where they operate.

Many business operators are very skilled and innovative about the product that is their business, but not all of them have developed the business skills needed to sustain an enterprise over the longer term.

Almost all small businesses experience difficulty with cash flow and management of debts and related issues involving adequacy of funds and access to affordable finance. In some of these areas governments at all levels can do more to provide encouragement and support to current and future small business operators.

However, some areas will always be inherently difficult for government to address effectively.

One area of common experience for small business is the difficulties experienced when dealing with larger businesses and governments at each level.

There is also a large and growing gap in the law where small business is often at the mercy of bigger businesses and find themselves without effective protection or remedy when relationships break down. The absence of formal contracts and uncertainty around what exactly has been agreed to has caused uncertainty and practical difficulties for the small business sector.

Of particular concern is where there exists significant inequality of bargaining power. Another area is 'form contracts', where the commercial relationship is offered on a "take it or leave it" basis and is not the subject of meaningful discussion or negotiation, in areas such as franchising. This has long been recognised as unsatisfactory and in need of reform.

Business contracts continue to assume that the commercial landscape is populated only with legally sophisticated parties dealing with one another as equals. The reality is often otherwise, with the small business operator being in reality a sole trader, or a mum and dad or family operation.

Enterprises of this character do not have the resources to challenge proposed contractual arrangements, or even to draft contracts.

Many business contracts are still made orally and many aspects of the relationship are not discussed and agreed upon in advance.

In addition, we have experienced the phenomenon in the past 30 years of governments and major corporations contracting out work and people who were once employees having to form companies, thereby becoming small businesses when in reality they are entirely dependent on a larger business or enterprise for all their work.

The issues faced by small businesses are unfair practices or unfair issues that arise in their dealings usually with larger businesses. Often this is not illegal or contrary to any commercial contract they have entered into and it is not the kind that is susceptible to remedy under existing laws.

The effect of this on small business is to cause economic hardship, inhibit growth and often is anticompetitive.

Small businesses, which often are run by hardworking Australian families and individuals, are damaged. That creates social hardship and, in a wider sense, inhibits economic growth more broadly in our society.

Where a small business is perceived not to have any black letter legal rights, or accessing them will be considerably expensive, larger businesses will often take advantage of them.

At present, the Small Business Commissioner appointed by the Coalition Government has no legal power to do anything, despite promises made before the last State election.

The Coalition Government's chief activity in the small business space has been to scrap Small Business September, MicroBiz Week, the Young Entrepreneurs Program and the Women in Business Mentoring Program. It also closed the Parramatta Business Centre, shut regional Trade and Investment offices in Broken Hill, Tweed

Head, Coffs Harbour and Goulburn, and in the process blamed its own Small Business Commissioner for this decision.

In contrast, Labor proposes a comprehensive and positive plan to support small business in this State. This plan was developed in consultation with small business operators across a range of industries about the challenge that they face and how a Small Business Commissioner could help them in practical ways.

Labor in government will:

- Make available adequate training for small business operators in areas such as business management, compliance, accounting, banking and the digital economy;
- Continue to monitor taxes and charges paid by small business to ensure they are fair and affordable;
- provide an effective legal foundation for the Office of the Small Business Commissioner— something the Coalition Government has failed to do —so that the holder of that office can act independently and with confidence to assist small business meaningfully in this State;
- ensure small businesses are treated fairly by other businesses and by State and local government bodies;
- report annually on the 'red tape' burden, its causes and how it can be reduced; and
- protect small businesses from unfair contracts, including in the area of retail leases and franchising.

Recommendation: Amend Platform to replace existing section 3.34 with:

3.34 NSW Labor will:

- **Make available adequate training for small business operators in areas such as business management, compliance, accounting, banking and the digital economy;**
- **Continue to monitor taxes and charges paid by small business to ensure they are fair and affordable;**
- **Provide an effective legal foundation for the Office of the Small Business Commissioner— something the Coalition Government has failed to do —so that the holder of that office can act independently and with confidence to assist small business meaningfully in this State;**
- **Ensure small businesses are treated fairly by other businesses and by State and local government bodies;**
- **Report annually on the 'red tape' burden, its causes and how it can be reduced; and**

- **Protect small businesses from unfair contracts, including in the area of retail leases and franchising.**

12. RAIL, TRAM AND BUS UNION

Privatisation of State Transport Assets

Preamble

A number of important State Government assets are currently at risk of privatisation, including transport assets such as Sydney Buses (formerly STA Buses), Sydney Trains (formerly CityRail) and NSW TrainLink (formerly CountryLink).

There has been little public debate about the relative merits and dangers of privatizing these services. The policy debate on privatization appears to be happening largely behind closed doors, between State Government ministers, their advisers, and the corporate sector.

As the recent ICAC Inquiries and related media coverage has shown, the links between corporate vested interests and the Coalition State Government are strong.

Corporate interests influence policy processes through a number of formal and informal mechanisms – including the old school tie network, the operation of so-called ‘think tanks’, business lobby groups, and through political fund-raising arms.

While these networks of influence have an impact on all political parties, it has become clear that the NSW Liberal Party has developed a particularly close and unhealthy relationship with corporate political donors.

Moreover, the Liberal Party has misused its political fundraising arms (also known as ‘slush funds’) to launder illegal donations from property developers, and to disguise the true identity of its corporate benefactors.

In this environment, any decisions to hand over control of public assets to privately-owned businesses must be treated with skepticism, and should be subject to the utmost scrutiny.

To put it simply, the Coalition’s “brown paper bag” model of governance has tarnished community trust in the Government decision making process. It is clear that the Coalition cannot be trusted to put the public interest first when it comes to privatizing public assets.

Action

Conference condemns the “brown paper bag” model of governance practiced by the NSW Coalition, and commits to retaining important public assets including Sydney Buses, Sydney Trains and NSW TrainLink under public ownership.

Recommendation: Refer to recommendation for Platform amendment 3.

13. STOCKTON BRANCH

Conference asks the Labor Party to support legislation to prevent the sale of public utilities overseas, as vital infrastructure should remain under the control of Australians.

Recommendation: Refer to recommendation for Platform amendment 3.

14. STOCKTON BRANCH

The following amendment be made to the Party’s Platform:

Any NSW State Government purchase of trains, buses and ferries will be designed, built and maintained within the state of NSW.

Recommendation: Refer to recommendation for Platform amendment 2.

15. WEST WALLSEND BRANCH

That the platform be amended to include:

“Any NSW State Labor Government will not sell the electricity assets pertaining to

- Ausgrid
- Endeavour Energy
- Essential Energy”

Recommendation: Refer to recommendation for Platform amendment 8.

16. WEST WALLSEND BRANCH

That the platform be amended to include:

“Any NSW State Labor Government not privatize the water assets of Hunter Water Corporation or Sydney Water”

Recommendation: Refer to recommendation for Platform amendment 4.

17. WEST WALLSEND BRANCH

That the platform be amended to include:

“Any NSW State Government purchase of trains, buses & ferries will be designed, built and maintained with the state of NSW.”

Recommendation: Refer to recommendation for Platform amendment 2.

18. WOY WOY BRANCH

That an additional section 3.68 section be added as follows:

Further that the precautionary principle be applied to all areas as applied for and under investigation for

CSG which the possibility of interfering with or polluting groundwater systems, until the scientific community can demonstrate this industry is safe.

Recommendation: Add final section under heading “Utilising our Natural Resources,” then renumber:

“NSW Labor will apply the precautionary principle to all areas under investigation for CSG mining which have the the possibility of interfering with or polluting groundwater systems, until the scientific community can demonstrate this industry is safe.”

OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE

AGENDA ITEMS

1. ADAMSTOWN BRANCH

Conference expresses concern about the continuing lack of regulation and supervision of property investment advisers or spruikers. This is despite advice from the NSW Property Services Advisory Council and discussion at the Council of Australian Government’s Legislative and Governance Forum on Consumer Affairs.

Conference understands that there is still no licence requirement for persons who style themselves as advisers, that ASIC does not supervise their activities, except in respect of the provision of credit, and that they cannot obtain professional indemnity insurance which means that recovery for losses resulting from bad or inappropriate advice is unlikely.

Conference calls for this loophole to be closed.

Recommendation: Support in principle and refer to National Conference.

2. ADAMSTOWN BRANCH

Conference expresses concern about the closure of Australian oil refineries and in particular, the resulting threat to fuel security for defence purposes. Conference calls for an adequate strategic reserve to be established to cushion the effect should hostilities in the Pacific threaten shipping lanes.

Recommendation: Support in principle and refer to National Conference.

3. AUBURN BRANCH

Preamble

NSW Labor’s economic policies will be an expression of Australian and Labor values of equality and fairness. Labor in Government will build essential infrastructure that the private sector cannot or will not build. We will use the State’s spending power to facilitate better outcomes for local small and regional businesses. Regulation will be geared toward ensuring fairness at work and fairness between smaller and larger businesses. Above all, Labor will reverse the 30-year trend toward a more unequal society.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

4. AUBURN BRANCH

NSW Labor will set explicit yearly economic equality targets, and report on these at every State Budget, and include NSW equality figures in the State Budget papers,

using internationally accepted measures of inequality.

Recommendation: Support in principle. Labor will ensure economic equality targets are addressed in the State Plan.

5. AUBURN BRANCH

NSW Labor will adopt a process where all major legislation will include an equality impact statement, whereby the Parliamentary Budget Office or Treasury will assess the new Bill's likely impact on economic equality.

Recommendation: Support in principle. Labor will ensure economic equality targets are addressed in the State Plan.

6. AUBURN BRANCH

NSW Labor will increase the overall tax revenues of the State in order to make up the shortfall in services and the infrastructure deficit experienced by NSW residents. Any increase in taxation revenue will be progressive in nature, levied on those individuals and entities that can afford to pay.

Recommendation: Reject. Labor supports a fair and disciplined taxation regime which provides appropriate revenues to fund quality services for the people of NSW.

7. AUBURN BRANCH

NSW Labor will reform State taxes to set the State Budget on a sustainable footing, including moving away from Stamp Duty towards a broad based progressive land tax, cutting insurance and fire levies by lowering the threshold for payroll tax, and investigating a Sydney vehicle congestion charge to cut vehicle taxes and charges.

Recommendation: Reject. Labor supports a fair and disciplined taxation regime which provides appropriate revenues to fund quality services for the people of NSW.

8. AUBURN BRANCH

NSW Labor will increase State borrowings from a per-capita rate of around \$2000 per person to a figure closer to that in other major Australian States. This money will be used for vital social and economic infrastructure, with public transport the highest priority. With assets of \$320b and liabilities of \$156b, the State can afford to borrow more to fix serious social, environmental and economic infrastructure deficits. Maintenance of credit ratings will no longer determine NSW Government budgetary policy.

Recommendation: Reject. Labor supports a fair and disciplined taxation regime which provides appropriate revenues to fund quality services for the people of NSW.

9. AUBURN BRANCH

NSW Labor will support small business by ensuring that corporations that receive State contracts pay small business contractors within a reasonable time frame, and by regulating for and investing in rapid dispute resolution processes for small businesses that are seeking payment from larger entities. NSW Labor will ensure that local governments give small contractors a fair go at receiving work at the local level.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

10. AUBURN BRANCH

NSW will establish more small business incubators, particularly in areas of high social and economic disadvantage, to facilitate entrepreneurship and self-employment.

Recommendation: Support.

11. AUBURN BRANCH

NSW Labor will support rural and regional businesses and globally exposed businesses through a variety of measures, including implementing Labor's current platform on procurement policy. Labor will seek out opportunities for directly investing in regional tertiary education and research and development relevant to regional industries, such as agriculture, enviro-tourism and sustainable energy. The formation and extension of regional development corporations and committees will be encouraged, especially where gaps exist between current regional committees, such as in the Shoalhaven.

Recommendation: Support.

12. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Government procurement - transport policy

On 8 May Premier Baird and transport Minister Berejiklian announced that they would fund a \$2.8 billion contract to fund 65 new trains and 500 new passenger rail carriages for the NSW Hunter Valley line.

More than 6,000 workers in NSW have jobs in the rolling stock industry and its supply chain. Many of those workers live and work in the NSW Hunter Valley.

Over the past 18 months more than 750 workers employed by Hunter Valley rolling stock manufacturers plus hundreds more in the supply chain have lost their jobs.

The NSW state budget committed more than \$6 billion for major transport infrastructure. More than \$2.8 billion has now been announced to build trains for the Hunter line. Yet the Premier and Minister for Transport refuse to commit one cent of this money to NSW rail manufacturers.

Failure by the state government to mandate local content in the tendering process for new rolling stock will lead to the loss of local jobs, training, investment and industry capacity building opportunities.

That Conference recognises the strategic economic significance of the rolling stock industry for both the Hunter and the state's economy.

That Conference supports the \$2.8billion rolling stock tender announced on 8 May being designed, built and maintained by NSW manufacturers.

That Labor in opposition will use all means available to support local manufacturing.

That Labor in government will legislate procurement policies that reinstate local content provisions and price preferencing, particularly in regional areas.

Recommendation: Support in principle. Government action should ensure that local manufacturers are preferred suppliers and local jobs are taken into consideration when awarding major contracts. Refer to Platform amendment 2.

13. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Fiscal management and tax reform

Conference recognizes that for too long the ALP has accepted the conservative orthodoxy that government debt is inherently bad, budget surpluses are inherently good and government spending should be minimized. There is no inherent economic justification for these views or the current 'surplus fetish' trend.

Conference rejects the position of the Shadow Treasurer, which reaffirms the position that Federal Labor will not increase taxation.

ALP policy should be focused on maintaining government solvency, not a blind goal of eliminating net debt or deficits while providing the social and economic investments that underpin a fair and prosperous society. Low and stable long run debt to GDP ratios or Deficit to GDP ratios are two better measures of prudent fiscal management than surpluses or zero net debt.

That Labor in opposition and in government will implement a fiscal policy aimed at ensuring the tax base is adequate to fund Labor's priorities including the NDIS, universal health care and access to world class education from pre-school to university.

That Labor in opposition and in government will reject any attempt to adjust investments and social programs to fit a declining tax base.

That in opposition and in government Labor will expand the tax base, especially for high income earners and non-productive corporate activities (speculation, super profits,

profit shifting and pollution charges for example) to ensure Australians get the services they need and the investments their prosperity relies upon.

Recommendation: Reject. Labor supports a fair and disciplined taxation regime which provides appropriate revenues to fund quality services for the people of Australia.

14. CANTERBURY SEC BRANCH

1. Conference notes with concern a plan currently being considered by Canterbury City Council to outsource management of the Canterbury Aquatic and Fitness Centres to the YMCA.
2. Conference views this plan as simply the first phase of a broader outsourcing strategy that will have adverse impacts on the local community and the Council's workforce.
3. Conference refers to policies supported by the 2012 Conference which opposed outsourcing by Councils and recognised the fact outsourcing leads to reduced services and job losses.
4. Conference acknowledges that, while the Centres currently run at a loss, they provide essential services.
5. Conference notes that the Canterbury Council Aquatic and Fitness Centres Advisory Committee has put forward a number of suggestions to increase patronage and improve the financial viability of the Centres. Conference calls on Council to ensure these recommendations are investigated.

Recommendation: Note and refer to Canterbury Local Government Committee

15. CONSTRUCTION, FORESTRY, MINING AND ENERGY UNION

Industry Super Funds

There is an on-going debate promulgated by conservative forces to destroy the status of industry super funds as default funds in Federal Awards. Industry super funds were fought for and won by workers and they are under attack as yet another strategy to break the power of organised labour.

This conference calls on Federal Labor to reject any proposal to open up the status of default funds to any other type of funds. Industry superannuation funds have proven to be the best funds for workers in terms of their superannuation and their status as default funds should be protected. This is an important achievement and legacy of the labour movement, which should be defended.

Recommendation: Support in principle and refer to National Conference.

16. CONSTRUCTION, FORESTRY, MINING AND ENERGY UNION

Conference calls upon a future NSW Labor government to mandate the purchase of locally manufactured paper and tissue products (for all government internal usage and external printing contracts) for all NSW government departments, statutory authorities and agencies and NSW local government authorities in recognition of the positive environmental, social and economic contribution to the industry.

Recommendation: Refer to recommendation to Platform amendment 2.

17. DOUBLE BAY BELLEVUE HILL BRANCH

Conference is concerned about the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement (TPPA) being negotiated between Australia, the US, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, Chile, Peru, Brunei, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam and Japan.

The agenda has been heavily influenced by US corporations, which regard many areas of Australian public interest regulation as barriers to trade.

We congratulate the former Federal Labor Government for its steadfast opposition to the attempt by the Philip Morris tobacco company to sue for damages over the tobacco plain packaging legislation.

As pressure mounts to conclude the negotiations, Conference calls on the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party to oppose investor rights to sue sovereign governments and to oppose proposals which would mean higher prices for medicines.

Conference also calls on the FPLP to oppose proposals to:

- Increase the rights of patent and copyright holders at the expense of consumers;
- Reduce Australian content in government purchasing;
- Reduce Australian content in audio-visual media;
- Remove labelling of genetically engineered food; and
- Reduce the capacity of government to regulate in the public interest.

Conference calls on the FPLP to support enforceable workers' rights and environmental protections.

Recommendation: Support

18. FINANCE SECTOR UNION

A plan to secure local jobs for local workers

When Labor released its plan for jobs and growth we said that this was just the start of putting forward policies to get

NSW back to work.

NSW Labor believes that jobs in the services and financial sectors are too important to be lost.

As the biggest purchaser of services the State Government has an important role to play to ensure where possible services are sourced locally.

Given that two thirds of NSW jobs are in the services sector Labor believes that there should be achievable targets and policies in this sector.

To assist in this a future Labor Government will establish a tripartite services sector round table modelled on the Commonwealth Services Sector Leaders Group to assist in the development of the plan.

But NSW Labor will be a model purchaser and we will deal with people who are fair employers.

Recommendation: Refer to recommendation for Platform amendment 2.

19. FINANCE SECTOR UNION

Pre-qualification

A future Labor Government will establish a Services and Financial Sectors Procurement Register of suppliers from which the NSW Government will source its services and financial sector purchases.

Recommendation: Refer to recommendation for Platform amendment 2.

20. FINANCE SECTOR UNION

A Fair employer

NSW Labor is committed to ensuring that Government procurement decisions are based on ethical as well as value for money considerations.

NSW labor believes that Government has a responsibility to lead by example. This means that Government should not be associated with the purchase of services produced from labour of exploited workers.

Businesses that tender for contracts from NSW Government entities will be required to comply with all applicable collective agreements, employment legislation and Awards, including proper occupational health and safety standards, superannuation and workers compensation obligations throughout the life of the contract.

NSW Labor will strengthen reporting requirements to ensure that ethical procurement policy is also complied with.

To ensure compliance with this requirement, Labor will ensure that any company supplying services to the State Government, (including any other sub-contractor or third

party in the supply chain) provide regular updates to the Government.

Recommendation: Refer to recommendation for Platform amendment 2.

21. FINANCE SECTOR UNION

Keeping jobs local

Preference will be given to companies that provide sustainable employment opportunities for local workers.

Where companies have committed to provide the workforce locally, Labor believes that there should be transparency in the contracts to ensure the service provisions are adhered to throughout the life of the contract.

Labor will ensure that any contracts signed will continue to protect the state's funds and to assure a genuine quality competitive market services.

Recommendation: Refer to recommendation for Platform amendment 2.

22. GOULBURN BRANCH

Conference ask that the next Federal Labor Government ensures that Australia Post continue as a Government owned business as it is an essential service. If necessary, Australia Post should be allowed to establish itself as a major bank.

Recommendation: Support in principle and refer to National Conference.

23. GRIFFITH BRANCH

Conference recognises the significant cost of living pressures on working families, particularly from utilities, and the difficulties young families face when entering the property market. Conference calls on NSW Labor to develop policies to ease the cost of living pressures faced by working families and to support first homebuyers purchasing both new and existing homes.

Recommendation: Support.

24. GRIFFITH BRANCH

That a future NSW Labor Government will address cost of living pressures for people of NSW and explore the avenues of direct assistance to low and middle income earners, including increasing the electricity rebate, introducing vouchers for primary schools students, baby vouchers for first child in a family, reducing the motor vehicle tax for vehicles worth less than \$8,000 and re-introducing the First Home Grant for second hand houses.

Recommendation: Note. Conference recognises the cost of living pressures faced by people and the role

of Government to help ease these pressures.

25. HARBORD BRANCH

NSW Labor's economic policies will be an expression of Australian and Labor values of equality and fairness. Labor in Government will build essential infrastructure that the private sector cannot or will not build. We will use the State 's spending power to facilitate better outcomes for local small and regional businesses. Regulation will be geared toward ensuring fairness at work and fairness between smaller and larger businesses. Above all, Labor will reverse the 30-year trend toward a more unequal society.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

26. LAMBTON, NEW LAMBTON & KOTARA BRANCH

Economy:

1. NSW Labor will set explicit yearly economic equality targets, report on these at every State Budget, and include NSW equality figures in the State papers, using internationally accepted measures of inequality.
2. NSW Labor will reverse the Liberal Government's TAFE fee increases and cuts to courses.
3. NSW Labor will conduct a commission of audit into the comparative effectiveness of taxpayer money spent on early intervention and education versus that spent on corrections and juvenile justice and justice reinvestment programs, with a view to moving the focus of state expenditures from punitive and corrections to early intervention and justice reinvestment strategies

Recommendation: Support in principle. Labor will ensure economic equality targets are addressed in the State Plan.

27. LAMBTON, NEW LAMBTON & KOTARA BRANCH

Port of Newcastle sale:

Our representatives in Parliament must get the information to the public who will have to pay all the costs without the advantage of the compensating income now the NSW Liberal Government has privatised the Port of Newcastle. The Liberal Government must make public detailed answers to the following questions:

1. Will the Minister inform the public of the description, the DP and Lot, of those properties that have been leased to a private party for 99 years?
2. Can the Minister provide the Parliament and the public with a map identifying those parcels of land?

3. Have Heritage and environmentally sensitive areas located within the lease been identified for protection in the agreement?
4. What will be the effect of the lease on the future revenues to the NSW State?
5. Will the public be required to bear the costly:
 - (a) Storm wall maintenance
 - (b) Dredging
 - (c) Site remediation, and
 - (d) Storing of toxic materialsWithout recompense from the Lessee?
6. What adjustments over the term of the 99-year lease can be made once it has been entered into?

Recommendation: Support.

28. LAMBTON, NEW LAMBTON & KOTARA BRANCH

Home Loans through the Post Office:

In the UK for the last 4 years, the government has operated a system of home loans through the post office. These loans are offered in conjunction with the Bank of Ireland and their purpose is to inject competition in to the banking sector. In the 4 years that this system has been operating, the number of fees attached to mortgages has decreased and bank mortgage interest rates have moved in line with official bank of England exchange rates.

Although in Australia only some interest rate cuts have been passed on in full by the big four banks. Despite complaints about increases in the price of overseas funding arrangements in reality the big four Australian banks are doing all in their power to resist proper competition in the banking sector and as a survey from the Bank of International Settlements shows Australia's banks are the most profitable in the world.

NSW Labor calls on the National arm of ALP to include 'home loans through the Post Office' as a National policy which an ALP Australian Government would move immediately to emulate the British system and offer low-rate, low-fee home loans to inject competition into the banking sector.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference and to the relevant Federal Shadow Minister for consideration.

29. LITHGOW BRANCH

Conference expresses serious reservations regarding the recent free trade agreement negotiated between the Australian and Japanese governments. In particular we question the real value of the tariff reductions and doubt

the agreement as negotiated will provide any opportunity for real jobs growth in Australia.

Further Conference expresses concerns about the value of unilateral free trade agreements as a concept, especially in the light of the contraction of Australian manufacturing industries over the last 40 years.

Recommendation: Reject.

30. MACQUARIE BRANCH

NSW Labor will set explicit yearly economic equality targets, and report on these at every State Budget, and include NSW equality figures in the State Budget papers, using internationally accepted measures of inequality.

Recommendation: Support in principle. Labor will ensure economic equality targets are addressed in the State Plan.

31. MACQUARIE BRANCH

NSW Labor will adopt a process where all major legislation will include an equality impact statement, whereby the Parliamentary Budget Office or Treasury will assess the new Bill's likely impact on economic equality.

Recommendation: Support in principle. Labor will ensure economic equality targets are addressed in the State Plan.

32. MACQUARIE BRANCH

NSW Labor will increase the overall tax revenues of the State in order to make up the shortfall in services and the infrastructure deficit experienced by NSW residents. Any increase in taxation revenue will be progressive in nature, levied on those individuals and entities that can afford to pay.

Recommendation: Reject. Labor supports a fair and disciplined taxation regime which provides appropriate revenues to fund quality services for the people of NSW.

33. MACQUARIE BRANCH

NSW Labor will reform State taxes to set the State Budget on a sustainable footing, including moving away from Stamp Duty towards a broad based progressive land tax, cutting insurance and fire levies by lowering the threshold for payroll tax, and investigating a Sydney vehicle congestion charge to cut vehicle taxes and charges.

Recommendation: Reject. Labor supports a fair and disciplined taxation regime which provides appropriate revenues to fund quality services for the people of NSW.

34. MACQUARIE BRANCH

NSW Labor will increase State borrowings from a per-capita rate of around \$2000 per person to a figure closer to that in other major Australian States. This money will be used for vital social and economic infrastructure, with public transport the highest priority. With assets of \$320b and liabilities of \$156b, the State can afford to borrow more to fix serious social, environmental and economic infrastructure deficits. Maintenance of credit ratings will no longer determine NSW Government budgetary policy.

Recommendation: Reject. Labor supports a fair and disciplined taxation regime which provides appropriate revenues to fund quality services for the people of NSW.

35. MACQUARIE BRANCH

NSW Labor will support small business by ensuring that corporations that receive State contracts pay small business contractors within a reasonable time frame, and by regulating for and investing in rapid dispute resolution processes for small businesses that are seeking payment from larger entities. NSW Labor will ensure that local governments give small contractors a fair go at receiving work at the local level.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

36. MACQUARIE BRANCH

NSW will establish more small business incubators, particularly in areas of high social and economic disadvantage, to facilitate entrepreneurship and self-employment.

Recommendation: Support.

37. MACQUARIE BRANCH

NSW Labor will support rural and regional businesses and globally exposed businesses through a variety of measures, including implementing Labor's current platform on procurement policy. Labor will seek out opportunities for directly investing in regional tertiary education and research and development relevant to regional industries, such as agriculture, enviro-tourism and sustainable.

Recommendation: Support.

38. MAYFIELD BRANCH

Conference is opposed to the construction of a coal loader on the former BHP site in Newcastle due to the impact of the increased dust and noise on the amenity of local Mayfield, Throsby and inner city residents and the general increase in rail and road traffic through the suburbs of Newcastle.

Recommendation: Support in principle. Conference

notes the previous Labor Government's policy to reserve the site for use as a container terminal after Port Botany reaches capacity.

39. MAYFIELD BRANCH

Conference reaffirms its opposition to the construction of a coal loader and the rail line proposed by Nathan Tinkler due to the increased environmental impact on the Mayfield East area which faces the former BHP site, three different plans for which have been shown in the Newcastle Herald newspaper. The Branch notes that \$600million has been spent rehabilitating the site and that the community expects improved environmental impacts and increases in job opportunities and higher valued industries from this rehabilitated site, not more of the same.

Recommendation: Support in principle. Conference notes the previous Labor Government's policy to reserve the site for use as a container terminal after Port Botany reaches capacity.

40. MAYFIELD BRANCH

Conference opposes the 4th coal loader on Kooragang Island. The road across Kooragang Island is the entrance to Newcastle for many people travelling from the North including the Newcastle Airport. The Branch believes that the construction of the 4th coal loader will ensure the removal of items of the landscape that make the trip interesting including the swan pond and two remaining Phoenix palms that were planted by the Towns family, early farmers before the creation of Kooragang from the islands of the Hunter delta.

Recommendation: Note.

41. NEWCASTLE FEC

Conference calls for our Shadow Trade Minister to strongly oppose any inclusion of Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions in international trade agreements.

These provisions, which were never accepted by the Labor Government, allow foreign companies to sue our government if they consider that some of its policies are harming their interests. The cases are heard at forums that are very biased towards the interests of companies over governments. The inclusion of these provisions could put at risk many social and environmental policies such as cigarette plain packaging and air pollution regulation.

Recommendation: Support and refer to National Conference

42. NEWCASTLE FEC

Conference asks for consideration of emulating the British system and offering low-rate, low-fee home loans through the post office to inject competition with the banking

sector.

Recommendation: Support and Refer to National Conference

43. NEWCASTLE FEC

Conference calls on NSW Labor to alter its party platform so that no financial market can be dominated by speculators, as opposed to those who are producers or users of a product. For this reason, position limits in various markets tradable through the ASX should be established.

Recommendation: Reject.

44. NEWCASTLE FEC

Conference is concerned about the lack of regulation and supervision of property investment advisers. Conference understands that there is no licence requirement for persons who style themselves as such, that ASIC does not supervise their activities and that they cannot obtain professional indemnity insurance so that recovery for losses resulting from bad or inappropriate advice is unlikely. Conference calls for this loophole to be closed.

Recommendation: Support in principle and refer to National Conference.

45. NEWCASTLE FEC

Conference objects to the construction of a fourth coal loader (T4) on Kooragang Island.

Recommendation: Note.

46. STOCKTON BRANCH

Conference objects to the construction of a fourth coal loader (T4) on Kooragang Island.

Recommendation: Note.

47. STOCKTON BRANCH

Conference urges the State Opposition to call for full details to be divulged by the NSW Government regarding the 99 year lease of Newcastle Port. These details should include information on the following:

- (a) Future access to Stockton and Nobby's breakwaters
- (b) Will fishing and other recreational activities be permitted on the breakwaters and the foreshores?
- (c) The future of the marinas at Stockton and elsewhere on the Port foreshores
- (d) Dredging of the Harbour
- (e) The impact on the Stockton/Newcastle ferry

service

- f) Throsby Creek
- g) Who will be responsible for the upkeep of the foreshores e.g. the Ballast grounds and the cycle way/walkway at Stockton?
- h) The protection of the environment

Recommendation: Note.

48. THE HILLS BRANCH

Conference notes with alarm the decision by the Federal Government to enter into Enterprise Migration Agreements to facilitate the entry of foreign workers in Australia. The entry of such workers on a large scale has the potential to undermine the wages and working conditions enshrined in Australia's industrial relations laws. We call on the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party to take whatever action is possible to ensure that all work undertaken in Australia is in compliance with Australia's pay rates and conditions of employment.

Recommendation: Support in principle and refer to National Conference.

49. THE HILLS BRANCH

That the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party adopt as policy that in government it will review the policy settings underpinning the Foreign Investment Review Board to determine the appropriate threshold for foreign investment; and establish a register of foreign investment; identify what proportion of GOP that investment represents; and identify key sectors of the economy such as food security that represent the national interest that should not be controlled by sovereign foreign entities.

Recommendation: Support in principle and refer to National Conference.

50. TUMBI UMBI BRANCH

Conference opposes the Enterprise Migration Agreement, as it is the least effective way of tackling labour shortages in the mining sector and the long-term employment prospects of domestic mining employees.

The proposed model, which would aid Gina Rinehart in employing cheaper labour for her mines, is not consistent with the Party's core values. This Agreement would undercut the working conditions and safety standards for the domestic workforce and bring down labour standards for all workers. Furthermore, the mining industry launched an unprecedented attack on the Party over the mining tax, a good policy which was compromised and diluted to accommodate their demands. The Party should not be supporting policies which will entrench the skills and training shortage in this country and simultaneously assist

mining companies to further exploit the labour force.

Recommendation: Note and refer to National Conference. Labor should support the best possible labour standards, working conditions and rates of pay for all workers regardless of how they come to be employed in Australia.

51. TUMBI UMBI BRANCH

Conference is concerned about the Coles/Woolworths stranglehold on the supermarket industry, which does not bode well for Australian consumers, farmers or producers in the long term. Whilst in the short term customers can benefit from the cheaper prices as the two major supermarkets compete, it is in many cases farmers who are forced to sell their product at a lower price to the supermarket or risk losing business. The savings to customers come from the farmers' pocket rather than the supermarket's bottom line. Coles and Woolworths between them hold over 80 per cent of the market share.

Conference does not believe that any two companies should have such a comprehensive hold over the market and this is an unhealthy and uncompetitive model. We call on a future Labor Government to support a bill which stipulates that no company should have more than a 25% share of the market, thus ensuring the longer term competitiveness of the supermarket industry.

Recommendation: Reject.

52. TUMBI UMBI BRANCH

Conference endorses the idea that the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party must present a comprehensive tax policy to the wider party and general public prior to the next federal election and that;

1. These tax policies must reflect Labor's commitment to fairness, economic growth and individual opportunity, families, workers, retirees, students Australian business, and being a good global citizen.
2. These tax policies are fully costed and released to the public prior to the next election.
3. That if elected, that these tax policies remain Labor's guiding revenue reform ideas until the subsequent election, and that deviations from these tax reform ideas and/or implementation of other tax reform ideas, only be undertaken as a last resort.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

53. TUMBI UMBI BRANCH

Conference endorses the idea that when Federal Labor next wins office, the next Labor cabinet implement a comprehensive review, to be undertaken by professional

and independent economic experts, of every element of the taxation system with three equally weighted goals in its terms of reference:

1. Creating the conditions for upwards social mobility for individuals and families, and;
2. Creating the conditions for real GDP growth, and;
3. Correcting the structural deficit.

Conference believes that the FPLP should take ideas and recommendations from this review to subsequent elections if these recommendations relate to our commitment to fairness, economic growth and individual opportunity, families, workers, Australian business, and being a good global citizen.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

54. TUMBI UMBI BRANCH

Conference calls in the NSW ALP to investigate alternate banking arrangements with financial institutions other than the big four banks, particularly considering utilising bodies such as Members Equity Bank. In light of the recent Four Corners report on the dubious practices of the Commonwealth Bank, Conference urges the NSW ALP to investigate more ethical and efficient practices for banking branch accounts.

Recommendation: Refer to Administrative Committee for consideration.

55. TUMBI UMBI BRANCH

Conference calls on the Federal Government to undertake a comprehensive review of the superannuation contribution system with the aim of making the system more equitable. The tax concessions currently in place benefit the 10% of highest income earners to the detriment of lower income earners. This is not in the egalitarian spirit of Australia or in line with ALP core principles, particularly and including those regarding progressive taxation. We ask the Federal Government to reduce the tax concession available to the highest earners and consider the re-introduction of the reasonable benefits test. Superannuation should be a progressive taxation scheme without loopholes which encourage tax avoidance.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

56. WENTWORTH FEC

Conference is concerned about the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement (TPPA) being negotiated between Australia, the US, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, Chile, Peru, Brunei, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam and Japan. The agenda is being heavily influenced by US corporations which regard many areas of Australian public

interest regulation as barriers to trade.

Conference congratulates the former Labor Government for its steadfast opposition to the attempt by the Philip Morris tobacco company to sue for damages over the tobacco plain packaging legislation.

As pressure mounts to conclude the negotiations, Conference calls on the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party to continue to reject investor rights to sue sovereign governments and to reject proposals which would mean higher prices for medicines.

Conference also calls on the FPLP to reject proposals for increased rights for patent and copyright holders at the expense of consumers, for reduction of Australian content in government purchasing, for reduction of Australian content in audio-visual media, for removal of labelling of genetically engineered food, and to reject any other proposals which would reduce the capacity of government to regulate in the public interest.

Recommendation: Support.

57. YOUNG LABOR

End Negative Gearing Now

Preamble

Negative gearing has over the past decade been transformed from its initial purpose as a tool to encourage investment, to nothing more than the largest tax avoidance scheme in the country.

Negative gearing encourages excess speculation in both the housing and share markets, providing an incentive to take out loans at rates that are unsustainable and make investments with no intention of ever providing a return. It increases the financial power of individuals with access to capital, while raising barriers to entry for first homebuyers and entrenching economic divides.

The initial aims of negative gearing were to increase the housing supply, but it has had little influence in raising the rates of construction of new housing financed by individual borrowing. In 2010 there were \$6 billion of issued loan to those investing in the existing housing market, but only \$400 million towards new developments.

Repeated Productivity Commission Inquiries, RBA Papers, and Senate Inquiries have called for thorough reform to negative gearing, but little action has been taken.

Platform

NSW Labor calls for the abolition of negative gearing for loans taken out with the purpose of purely speculative investments (stock market and purchase of existing housing).

NSW Labor acknowledges the need for investment in new housing, but views negative gearing as a fundamentally misguided toll to encourage it.

NSW Labor calls for the restriction of negative gearing to the construction of new housing stock in the short term, with a view to transitioning to alternative incentive arrangements in the future.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

PROSPERITY AND FAIRNESS AT WORK

PLATFORM AMENDMENTS

1. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION/CASTLE HILL SEC/ FINANCE SECTOR UNION/INDUSTRIAL STAFF UNION

That the NSW Labor Platform be amended in section 4.22 - Fair Workers Compensation, to read as follows:

"NSW Labor is committed to repealing the current workers compensation system and replacing it with a system that reflects the following principles:

1. Workers compensation should be available on a no-fault basis where an injury "arises out of or in the course of employment", even where it is the aggravation of an existing injury or disease.
2. Premiums must recover the costs of the system as well as encourage safe work practices.
3. WorkCover must be properly resourced to carry out its functions properly including an increased emphasis on prevention and compliance.
4. Meaningful tripartite consultation must be a central part of the system.
5. The system of scheme agents and self-insurers should be abolished and all workers compensation functions should be internalised within WorkCover.
6. Trade unions must have the power to enforce non-compliance with workers compensation law together with rights of entry, inspection and other investigative powers.
7. The Workers Compensation Commission should provide a quick, easy, effective and legally binding mechanism to resolve disputes about all aspects of the workers compensation system.
8. Return to work should be elevated as a central tenant of workers compensation by:
 - (8.1) Placing an absolute obligation on employers to provide suitable duties;
 - (8.2) Preventing termination unless the injury management plan states that the return to work goal is a different job and a different employer; and
 - (8.3) Incentivising the employment of injured workers.
9. Journey claims and recess claims should be covered by the system.

10. Weekly payments should be set at a level equivalent to an injured worker's pre-injury average weekly earnings irrespective of their fitness for work and should not be subject to any caps or step-downs.
11. Costs associated with medical and all related treatment should be covered for workers compensation purposes with no arbitrary caps or limits.
12. Work Capacity Reviews and Decisions should be removed from the workers compensation legislation. Consideration of a worker's functionality is properly addressed as part of their rehabilitation plan.

NSW Labor also will ensure that any move to harmonise State and Federal Workers Compensation Laws does not result in a reduction of employee rights, protections or entitlements nor the rights of their respective unions.

Recommendation: Amend Platform to delete section 4.22 and insert:

4.22 NSW Labor is committed to repealing the current workers compensation system and replacing it with a system that reflects the following principles:

1. **Workers compensation should be available on a no-fault basis where an injury "arises out of or in the course of employment", even where it is the aggravation of an existing injury or disease.**
2. **Premiums must recover the costs of the system as well as encourage safe work practices.**
3. **WorkCover must be properly resourced to carry out its functions properly including an increased emphasis on prevention and compliance.**
4. **Meaningful tripartite consultation must be a central part of the system.**
5. **The system of scheme agents and self-insurers should be abolished and all workers compensation functions should be internalised within WorkCover.**
6. **Trade unions must have the power to enforce non-compliance with workers compensation law together with rights of entry, inspection and other investigative powers.**
7. **The Workers Compensation Commission should provide a quick, easy, effective and legally binding mechanism to resolve disputes about all aspects of the workers compensation system.**
8. **Return to work should be elevated as a central tenant of workers compensation by:**
 - (8.1) Placing an absolute obligation on employers to provide suitable duties;**

(8.2) Preventing termination unless the injury management plan states that the return to work goal is a different job and a different employer; and

(8.3) Incentivising the employment of injured workers.

- 9. *Journey claims and recess claims should be covered by the system.***
- 10. *Weekly payments should be set at a level equivalent to an injured worker's pre-injury average weekly earnings irrespective of their fitness for work and should not be subject to any caps or step-downs.***
- 11. *Costs associated with medical and all related treatment should be covered for workers compensation purposes with no arbitrary caps or limits.***
- 12. *Work Capacity Reviews and Decisions should be removed from the workers compensation legislation. Consideration of a worker's functionality is properly addressed as part of their rehabilitation plan.***

NSW Labor also will ensure that any move to harmonise State and Federal Workers Compensation laws does not result in a reduction of employee rights, protections or entitlements nor the rights of their respective unions.

2. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

WH&S regulation on sites employing temporary workers

Conference recognises the problems arising from abuses of all categories of Temporary Work Visas in NSW.

That while accepting that ultimately many issues need to be addressed by Federal Government legislation, Labor in state government will introduce legislation in areas of state jurisdiction in order to prevent ongoing WHS problems for visa workers including:

1. Establish a Register of visas approved by State Regional Certification Boards
2. Provide for mandatory registration of all temporary visa holders on site by controllers/principal contractors (as per NSW WH&S Act)
3. Enable WorkCover to develop guidelines for employers and holders of temporary work visas on rights and obligations of both parties under NSW and Australian law
4. Enable the WorkCover NSW website to provide detailed information on rights, obligations and support organisations in appropriate community

languages

5. Enable WorkCover to require signed statements from holders of temporary visas and their employers that these rights and obligations have been explained and are understood
6. Require WorkCover NSW to publish in its annual report all workplace incidents, injuries and fatalities involving holders of temporary work visas
7. Enable WorkCover NSW to ensure employers provide WorkCover approved language appropriate signage, manuals and instructions are made available on all worksites where holders of temporary visas are working
8. Enable WorkCover NSW to develop WorkCover approved, competency based training and ensure permits are issued on all sites where holders of temporary visas are working
9. Enable WorkCover NSW to ensure Certificates of Currency for Workers Compensation insurance accurately reflect numbers of workers, wages and industry classification on all sites where holders of temporary visas are working
10. Allow WorkCover NSW to introduce a 'strict liability' offence for non compliance with those reforms outlined above, so that work must immediately cease on sites where employers fail to comply
11. Establish a new Workers Compensation Insurance policy specifically for employers of temporary work visas, to be current for the entire period of employment
12. Establish a new and specific WorkCover Industry Classification (WIC) for holders of temporary work permits
13. Provide for regular site inspections where workers hold temporary work visas
14. Provide for all employer obligations to be underpinned by legislation and penalty provisions
15. Require mandatory reporting to Dept Immigration of all breaches of NSW State legislation
16. Introduce 'deeming' provisions in legislation defining the PCBU as liable for any breaches in relation to holders of temporary work visas
17. Require provisions reflecting those indicated above for self-insurers, requiring demonstration of financial and administrative capacity to meet liabilities and responsibilities.

Recommendation: Refer to existing section 4.21 of Platform.

3. ERSKINEVILLE BRANCH/GLEBE BRANCH/SURRY HILLS BRANCH

Under the heading Promoting Full Employment, at para 4.4 on page 23, substitute the ending “race and religion” with “race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status.”

Recommendation: Amend section 4.4 of Platform to:

4.4 NSW Labor will ensure that access to all areas of employment is equally available to everyone regardless of gender, socioeconomic background, disability, ethnic origin, age, race, religion and sexual orientation. NSW Labor affirms its support for the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.

4. ERSKINEVILLE BRANCH/GLEBE BRANCH/SURRY HILLS BRANCH

Under the heading Promoting Work-Life Balance, at para 4.24 on page 25, amend the dot point “A paid paternity leave scheme to operate in conjunction with paid maternity leave entitlements” and replace with gender-neutral language, taking account same-sex couples/ parental leave rather than paternity leave.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

5. INDUSTRIAL STAFF UNION

Platform Amendment – Building Safer Workplaces

Amend platform point 4.21 (Page 24) to insert a further dot point:

Will be committed to maintaining and ensuring optimal Work Health & Safety for NSW sex workers supported by the best practice regulatory framework

Recommendation: Conference notes that the rights of sex workers are included in the first point of section 4.21.

6. YOUNG LABOR

Junior rates of pay

Currently, employees under the age of 21 can be paid less than older workers for doing the same job under a system known as “junior rates of pay” (or youth wages).

The acceptance of youth wages contradicts the longstanding principle of equal pay for equal work and equal pay for work of equal value. It means that an 18 year old who has been employed in a job for 2 years can be paid less than a 22 year old who has been doing the same job for 2 weeks.

It is often argued that the abolition of junior rates will cause youth unemployment to increase. However, Hyslop and Stillman (2004) studied the impact that increases in youth wages had on the level of youth unemployment after

2001. They highlight that even after a 60 per cent wage increase for workers aged 18-19, youth employment improved (Hyslop and Stillman 2004: 2). In light of this evidence, it is flawed to rely on the argument that higher wages for young workers will automatically lead to higher youth unemployment.

Indeed, trade unions have been able to negotiate with employers the removal of youth wages from employment agreements. For instance, in 2009, the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association (SDA) reached an agreement with Ikea to remove youth wages from their workplace agreement. The SDA has also ensured that all major retailers, such as Woolworths, Big W and Coles do not pay youth wages to individuals aged 21. The fact that these retailers have accepted this suggests that public warnings regarding job losses may be exaggerated.

Platform

NSW Labor calls for the abolition of youth wages for workers aged 18 years and over. In order to achieve this, the Government should amend the definition of “junior employees” in the Act from 21 years to 18 years. Consequential amendments may be necessary to ensure consistency throughout the Act.

We propose a staged reduction in the age of youth wages from 21 to 18 over a period of three years. This would give businesses time to adjust to the changes.

If an 18 year old has the right to vote, join the military and be treated equally under the law, they should also be entitled to receive the same level of pay as other workers.

Moreover, NSW Labor supports the efforts of trade unions that have successfully negotiated the removal of junior rates of pay from enterprise agreements.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

7. YOUNG LABOR

A Response to Labour Hire

Preamble

Across the world, labour hire work is becoming an increasingly common form of employment, prompted by its flexibility and convenience for business. A labour hire arrangement occurs when a worker, employed directly by a labour hire agency, is then contracted to indirectly work for a third party company for a given period of time. Labour hire workers are predominantly blue collar and the latest ABS data estimates that over 5% of the Australian workforce is employed in this form of work.

Although the benefits of this work for business are obvious, so too are the detrimental effect that labour hire can have on employment conditions. Labour hire employment can be used to circumvent unfair dismissal laws and bypass the leave entitlements made available

to full time workers performing the same job. It is not uncommon for labour hire employees to have been contracted to the same third party company for over a year, while still receiving merely the entitlements of a casual employee.

The Eurozone has produced the most extensive global response to labour hire. In 2008 the European Union passed the EU Temporary and Agency Workers Directive (2008/104/EC) with the aim of preventing social dumping practices across the Eurozone common market. This was followed by extensive responses by a number of member-states, including the UK that effectively passed legislation that allowed labour hire workers to accrue entitlements at an equal rate to full time employees providing they had been indirectly employed by the third party company for a minimum period of time.

Platform

NSW Labor calls on the Federal Government to adopt legislative reform to respond to the growing incidence of labour hire work arrangements, including but not limited to providing clarification in the Fair Work Act of this type of arrangement and legislating for the equal treatment of labour hire employees who have served a minimum time.

NSW Labor furthermore calls on the Federal Government to introduce a licensing and registration system to track labour hire employees, in line with that proposed by the Secure Jobs, Better Future inquiry.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

PROSPERITY AND FAIRNESS AT WORK

AGENDA ITEMS

1. ADAMSTOWN BRANCH

Conference calls for the speedy acceptance and implementation of the National Safety Code of Practice for the Australian Stevedoring Industry. Conference notes that the fatality rate in the stevedoring industry is substantially higher than those in the construction, manufacturing and seafaring industries, which have relevant codes of practice.

The MUA has campaigned for years for a National Safety Code and Conference understands that Safe Work Australia has issued a first exposure draft of the Code but that it has yet to be implemented. Recent fatalities justify the Code being expedited.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

2. AUBURN BRANCH

NSW Labor will restore funding to the Office of Industrial Relations to ensure employers are meeting their lawful obligations in terms of industrial instruments, workplace safety and workers compensation. NSW Labor will ensure NSW agencies work closely with Federal agencies to ensure compliance with taxation and superannuation legislation. NSW Labor will ensure that all workers are paid the legal rate of pay, whether they are employed under Federal or State industrial instruments. NSW Labor will facilitate access to up to date information on correct rates of pay to assist small businesses pay the right wages.

Recommendation: Support.

3. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Superannuation Guarantee Legislation

Conference recognises the increasing number of companies who are facing financial collapse without having made satisfactory arrangements for the protection of their employees' entitlements. Of enormous concern is that many of these companies have also failed for some time prior to their collapse, to pay regular instalments to their employees' superannuation companies. Workers lose a significant proportion of their superannuation savings, including, in many instances, salary sacrifice payments.

Labor in opposition will seek to introduce legislation and in government will introduce legislation to deal with loopholes that allow rogue employers to evade their responsibilities to their employees including:

1. Introduce a 'flagging' system for superannuation companies so that any failure to pay instalments is immediately communicated to both the worker and the ATO
2. Rank superannuation as a priority payment ahead of debts owed to other secured creditors
3. Recognise the failure of employers to pay superannuation and other payroll deductions, including salary sacrifice payments as criminal theft, to be referred to the DPP
4. Eliminate arrangements whereby salary sacrifice arrangements to an employer nominated fund counts towards the employer's super guarantee obligation.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

4. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Protection of workers entitlements: Corporate Law Reform

Conference recognises that employers should take responsibility for the money they owe their workers. It is not acceptable for employers to rely on government to cover their costs or to be able to treat their employees' entitlements as an interest free unsecured loan.

Labor in government will properly fund ASIC to enable it to allow it to pursue and prosecute company directors who seek to evade their fiduciary responsibility, particularly in those cases where employee entitlements are lost and for those who are serial offenders through the use of phoenix companies.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

5. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Workers entitlements (superannuation): Personal liability for company directors

Conference recognises that while company directors cannot insure against the imposition of a penalty, it is possible to insure against the possibility of compensation being awarded against them in respect of their duties as directors. Insurers would no doubt scrutinise corporate accounting systems to ensure that employee entitlements were protected. Imposing ultimate responsibility for superannuation entitlements on directors would help ensure that directors comply with their superannuation requirements and thereby safeguard employees' entitlements.

Labor in government will introduce legislation to make company directors personally liable for any penalty imposed against a company for non-payment of superannuation contributions. Courts will be empowered

to make an order for underpayment of entitlements directly against the relevant executive officers. Unions will be empowered to bring actions against companies and their directors for unpaid SG contributions.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

6. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Workers entitlements: Superannuation Guarantee payments

Labor in government will introduce legislation in relation to companies coming out of Deeds of Company Arrangements under Part 5.3A of the Act in order to require restructured companies to remit SG contributions, including salary sacrifice, at the same time as weekly or fortnightly payroll for a specified period, for example two years. Pay as you go means that a large liability will not accrue and is as likely to be as effective, if not more, than pay up front in some cases.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

7. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Protection of workers' entitlements: corporate penalties

Conference recognises that in many instances, asset protection schemes mean that workers are employed through a service company arrangement, and under current law they have no remedy against a parent or related company despite those related companies remaining solvent and indeed, in many instances having extensive assets.

Labor in government will introduce amendments to the Corporations Act in order to address asset protection schemes where there is effectively a service company structure and in those circumstances to place a reverse onus on the parent or related company to establish why it should not be required to satisfy the employee entitlements of its insolvent related company.

Such legislation will specifically support Industry trust funds, where they are established having the right of recovery in respect to any monies paid out to retrenched workers.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

8. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Protection of workers entitlements: expansion of the director penalty notice regime

Conference recognises that including the company's own income tax and/or indirect taxes such as GST and excise should certainly act as a major disincentive for directors to

engage in fraudulent phoenix activity. An honest director would have nothing to fear and no administrative burden to bear. Amending the penalty regime to include schemes that avoid SG payments and tax liabilities would in substantially improve its power to deter people promoting the misuse of the corporate form and its concomitant privileges. Conference recognises that it is crucial that assets of directors are able to be traced and notes the role that the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 may play in assisting with this.

Labor in government will introduce legislation to support the expansion of the director penalty notice regime to include an additional range of payments, taxes and duties such as Superannuation Guarantee amounts in order to protect workers SG entitlements.

Labor in government will introduce a similar offence should be created in relation to SG obligations.

Labor in government will introduce legislation making it an offence for a director of a failed company to be involved in a phoenix company punishable by 5 years imprisonment or a \$200,000 would also greatly assist in deterring such actions.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

9. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Fairwork Australia – the ABCC

The Abbott Government is arguably the most ideologically driven federal government in Australia's history using its significant majority to introduce punitive legislation affecting every aspect of life for vulnerable Australians.

Labor in opposition will seek to introduce legislation and in government will introduce legislation that includes:

- Improving workers access to unions through improved delegates rights and Right of Entry provisions
- Removal of some of the artificial constraints on industrial action, including draconian penalties and the ready availability of orders and injunctions even where employers are breaching agreements or are failing to bargain in good faith
- Removal of secondary boycott provisions so that employees of contractors can achieve some real protections
- Stronger steps to ensure that Australia is in full compliance with ILO Conventions.
- Improve the capacity of workers to act to lift standards in an industry and combat the market behaviour of employers by removing restrictions on industry bargaining.

- Abolish the ABCC and ensure that all workers have similar rights
- Further improve job security by restricting access to casual and contract forms of employment and promoting permanent employment status
- Ensure that any remaining limitations on the matters over which parties can freely bargain are removed
- Ensure that flexibility provisions in awards and agreements are closely monitored to ensure that they do not undermine standards or the capacity to organise

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

10. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Professional Wages for Early Childhood Educators

Conference recognizes the professionalism and dedication of early childhood educators. Their work represents an essential service which at once shapes the development of a generation of young Australians and allows parents, especially women, to participate in the workforce.

Conference notes that wages for early childhood educators remain too low, don't begin to reflect the value of the work educators do, and contribute to high turnover in the sector. It supports the Big Steps campaign for professional wages in the sector.

Labor in opposition will seek to legislate and in government will legislate to fund professional wages in the early childhood education sector.

Labor in opposition will seek to force the current federal government to provide \$1.4 billion in recurrent annual spending, earmarked directly for wages, in order to ensure the highest standards of quality education and care.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

11. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Fair Wages for Fair Work – illegal student internships

Conference recognises that many students are expected to develop skills through practical placements that often involve long hours and little or no payment as part of their education and training. Internships and placements provide students with invaluable practical skills that complement the theory-based learning received as part of a student's higher education course.

In opposition and in government Labor will review current legislation and introduce amendments to the Fair Work Act in particular to deal with students undertaking practical experience related to their studies to ensure that at least the minimum wage is paid for internships.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference

12. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Protection of employee entitlements

The loss of entitlements is a fear that confronts all workers at any time, but in the context of the current economic crisis it is becoming a terrible reality for thousands of workers every day.

Conference recognises that current Corporations Laws compound insecurity of workers' entitlements and have proven to be impotent in protecting workers and their families at extremely vulnerable times in their lives. While there are obviously instances when it is not the fault of an employer when a business collapses financially, there are also clear examples where unscrupulous employers have deliberately contrived to evade their responsibilities to their employees and other creditors.

Labor in opposition will seek to introduce legislation and in government will introduce legislation that includes:

1. Establishment of an uncapped national fund to secure 100% of workers' entitlements, funded through employer contributions. The scheme will not be tax payer funded
2. No minimum number of employees - small businesses will not be excluded from the scheme
3. Portability, so that employees who change employment do not lose their entitlements
4. Employee entitlements will have absolute priority claim on any available funds or assets
5. ASIC must be adequately funded and resourced to allow it to properly investigate blatant breaches of corporations laws, particularly those that lead to loss of employee entitlements.
6. A 'reverse onus' provision covering company directors in cases where company collapse results in employees and other creditors not being paid.
7. Company Directors will need to prove to an ASIC Inquiry that they had fulfilled all of their fiduciary duties before they are permitted to hold any positions as a company director or officer with another company.
8. Addressing "fraudulent conveyancing" for the purposes of avoiding corporate liabilities
9. Allowing a "piercing" of the corporate veil so that related entities' liabilities can be addressed.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

13. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Asbestos Safety Certificates

Conference recognises that tens of thousands of Australian workers are dying or have already died as a result of exposure to asbestos during their working lives. The next wave of people who will die from asbestos related disease are those who have been exposed to the deadly fibres, not as a result of their work, but as a result of the current fashion for "Do-It-Yourself" home renovations. The best estimate is that more than 40,000 Australians will contract asbestos related disease over the next 30-40 years. More than 14,000 are expected to develop deadly mesothelioma. Many of these people will be home renovators. Sadly, many of the people exposed will be young children, present in the house while their parents work at renovations.

That Labor in government will legislate for the introduction of "Asbestos Safety Certificates", which would be issued as a normal part of conveyancing and development Applications before Councils. This is a highly effective public health initiative that could be undertaken by the State Government with very little cost and with very clear long term benefits and is an opportunity for the State Government to introduce a reform that will save the lives of tens of thousands of innocent people in NSW.

1. Inspections would be carried out by accredited inspectors who would identify the presence and condition of any asbestos materials on site. The potential purchaser or renovator would then be in a position to make an informed decision about any work needed on the property.
2. The Certification process would require minor amendments to the Conveyancing (Sale of Land) Regulation 2000, and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.
3. Labor in government will legislate to establish a State Repository for asbestos waste.
4. Such a repository would be available to all local councils to dispose of asbestos related waste and debris, including building materials.
5. Appropriate disposal facilities, including waste bins and bagging etc would be available for at-cost lease/ purchase through local councils, which would then collect the waste in fit-for-purpose trucks and deliver the waste to the State Repository.
6. An education programme on this service and the dangers of working with asbestos, including DIY work, should be launched immediately and repeated regularly through local councils.

Recommendation: Support.

14. AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION

NSW Industrial Relations Commission

Conference believes the NSW Conservative Government's merciless and relentless attack on the NSW Industrial Relations Commission (NSWIRC) has reduced the NSWIRC power and ability to arbitrate on many issues relating to working people. This includes workers compensation, safety laws and Award negotiations with the Government.

Conference calls on NSW Labor to introduce as an election commitment reinstalling the NSW IRC powers of being an independent judicial body capable of deciding matters on the merits of the case as well as providing appropriate staffing and financial resources for it to undertake its vital work.

Recommendation: Support.

15. AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION

Workers Compensation

It is an absolute travesty of justice that workers injured or killed in relation to their work commitments have suffered under NSW Conservative Government's draconian changes. Injured workers are denied journey cover; denied ongoing medical support; denied legal representation in certain circumstances; amongst a raft of other changes purely designed to reduce employer premiums so as to improve their profitability.

Conference calls on NSW Labor to introduce as an election commitment reinstating the Workers Compensation System prior to the Government's changes and to set up a Commission to examine ways of improving the laws by (amongst other initiatives):

- Ensuring all medical costs and related treatment costs are guaranteed for injured workers;
- Increasing job protection of workers for up to 2 years as a minimum;
- Including Superannuation payments whilst on workers compensation; and,
- Accumulation of all leave whilst on workers compensation leave.

Recommendation: Support. Refer to 2012 Conference resolution and note that NSW Opposition Leader, John Robertson has announced that if elected, Labor will repeal the Baird Government's workers' compensation laws. Labor will:

- Conduct a genuine review of the workers compensation scheme;
- Restore 'journey claim' to cover workers for injuries occurring on their way to and from work;
- Give injured workers the financial assistance they

need to pay their medical bills;

- Reinstate protection for workers with total and permanent disabilities; and
- Improve claims management and return to work outcomes

Recommendation: Support. Refer to Platform amendment 1.

16. AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION

Public Sector Wages and Conditions

NSW Public Sector Wages and Conditions have for too long been a political football by successive State Governments that have used draconian legislative and regulatory measures to stop the effective bargaining to be undertaken. The NSW Public Service have had their wages and conditions reduced in real terms over many years resulting in difficulty to attract and retain quality staff.

Conference calls on NSW Labor to allow the public sector to have wages and conditions to be negotiated in an unencumbered manner and if the parties so choose, to be arbitrated by the NSW Industrial Relations Commission based on accepted industrial principles.

Recommendation: Support. Wages policy should be centred on improved outcomes in the Public Sector, not cutting costs. Wages Policy should be directed to maintaining real wages, driving real increases in productive capacity and output and improving the quality of Public Sector employment.

17. AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION

Public Sector: Senior Executive Service

Conference requires NSW Labor when re-elected to Government to undertake a review of the performance and quantity of Senior Executive Service (SES). In particular, the review ought to include:

- Establishing an adequate proportion of SES to public service employees (noted that in recent years this proportion has favoured senior staff);
- Prohibition of filling management positions whilst front line positions remain vacant; and,
- The establishment of strict performance criteria that includes social outcomes for the public; and, maintaining a workforce that is trained, safe and with minimal vacancies.

Recommendation: Support.

18. AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION

Roads & Maritime Service (Road Maintenance and Construction Division)

The NSW Conservative Government has completely privatised the Sydney Road Maintenance and Construction Division of the Roads & Maritime Service (RMS). This is despite proven evidence that Government employees were more efficient, effective and produced better financial outcomes than their peers in the private sector. The Government sector also provided much needed emergency support for the Sydney motorists as well as fixing up problems left by the private contractors, particularly when contract provisions did not allow works outside of scope to be undertaken.

Conference calls on NSW Labor to include the examination and the reestablishment of Sydney Road Maintenance and Construction Division of the Roads & Maritime Service (RMS) during Labor's first term of office.

Recommendation: Support.

19. AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION

National Parks and Wildlife Service - increasing the workforce

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) provides vital support and development for more than 850 national parks and reserves including coastal marine parks, rainforests, rugged bushlands, desert regions and local active public reserves.

The Baird Government has not maintained the workforce to appropriately undertake the vital work required to maintain, enhance and provide much needed fire protection for all of our national parks and reserves.

Conference calls on NSW Labor to commit to increase the NPWS workforce directly associated with the delivery and interface with the public allowing them to improve the fire fighting capacity including air and ground support; as well as hazard reduction measures; pest control measures; and ensuring the parks are maintained at the appropriate public acceptable standards.

Recommendation: Support. Labor will provide the resources required to maintain, enhance and provide much needed fire protection for all of our national parks and reserves.

20. BLACKTOWN SEC

The Workers Compensation System in New South Wales has been decimated by the current Liberal/National NSW Government. This conference supports the Leader of the Opposition to reverse all the changes undertaken by the current conservative Government and also examine ways on improving the treatment of injured workers so their life-time medical costs are covered and superannuation continues to be maintained whilst they are on workers compensation.

Recommendation: Support. Refer to 2012 Conference

resolution and note that NSW Opposition Leader John Robertson has announced that if elected, Labor will repeal the Baird Government's workers' compensation laws. Labor will:

- **Conduct a genuine review of the workers compensation scheme;**
- **Restore 'journey claim' to cover workers for injuries occurring on their way to and from work;**
- **Give injured workers the financial assistance they need to pay their medical bills;**
- **Reinstate protection for workers with total and permanent disabilities; and**
- **Improve claims management and return to work outcomes**

21. BLACKTOWN SEC

Conference supports the creation of regulation and legislation of unpaid internships within the Fair Work Act 2009. NSW Labor recognises that current legislation has not kept pace with modern workplace practices in regards to unpaid work required through educational training requirements. Recent examples have included interns not being covered by workers compensation for injuries sustained, expected to undertake overtime, no access to unfair dismissal. This conference calls for the establishment of a Parliamentary Inquiry into internships and unpaid work (including volunteering for commercial enterprises) to examine the extent and justifiable application of such unpaid work. NSW Labor is committed to supporting young people in the workplace.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

22. CHINESE FRIENDS OF LABOR

That NSW Labor condemns the State Coalition Government for its changes to workers compensation that will negatively affect our workforce's most vulnerable.

Recommendation: Support. Refer to 2012 Conference resolution and note that NSW Opposition Leader John Robertson has announced that if elected, Labor will repeal the Baird Government's workers' compensation laws. Labor will:

- **Conduct a genuine review of the workers compensation scheme;**
- **Restore 'journey claim' to cover workers for injuries occurring on their way to and from work;**
- **Give injured workers the financial assistance they need to pay their medical bills;**
- **Reinstate protection for workers with total and permanent disabilities; and**

- **Improve claims management and return to work outcomes**

23. CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION

Conference calls for a review of the effectiveness of legislation, regulation and enforcement in relation to the safety regulatory system to ensure WorkCover is an active enforcer of safety laws so that high safety standards are restored.

Recommendation: Support.

23. CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION

Conference calls for Labor to commit to ensuring that local spending means local jobs.

Recommendation: Support. Government action should ensure that local manufacturers are preferred suppliers and local jobs are taken into consideration when awarding major contracts.

24. CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION

Conference calls up on Labor to ensure that all government funded projects require contractors to use active Labour Market Testing (LMT) to ensure that Australian citizens and permanent residents are given the opportunity to apply for jobs before applications for 457 visa workers can be approved.

Further Labor should seek to ensure that before any Regional Migration Agreement is applied for, all stakeholders including unions are consulted and a needs assessment undertaken, exploring other avenues for sourcing workers.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

25. CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION

Conference calls upon Labor to ensure that procurers and their contractors do not procure dumped and unfairly subsidised product where there is an Australian industry that could supply the product.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

26. CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION

Conference calls upon Labor to motivate discussion between industry, union and environmental stakeholders and ensure stakeholder consensus on any changes to land use tenure to ensure ongoing social, economic and

environmental benefits from and sustainability of any outcome.

Further Labor should support investment in timber processing and manufacturing that will create value and jobs in regional communities.

Recommendation: Support.

27. CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION

Fly in fly out (FIFO) arrangements have become an increasing feature of employment, particularly in the resource sector. It has for some provided access to employment opportunities not otherwise available. However there are growing examples of the downside to FIFO, including FIFO workers displacing local workers, even in major regional centres, putting pressure on community infrastructure and services, high rates of sexual abuse and loss of income to local business. For FIFO workers, family breakdowns, lack of choice of work arrangements and less choice to live locally with their family and longer shifts are becoming more prevalent.

FIFO work practices should be last resort, local jobs and communities should prevail.

Recommendation: Support.

28. CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION

Conference is opposed to the re-establishment of the Australian Building and Construction Commission by the Abbott Government. We were disappointed that Labor failed to abolish entirely the Building and Construction Industry Improvement Act 2005 and retained the Australian Building and Construction Commission when it was in government.

The Building and Construction Industry Improvement Act 2005 (BCII Act), which was resisted by the ALP in opposition, represented the worst excesses of the former Howard Government's WorkChoices agenda. It's resuscitation should be vigorously opposed and Labor should commit to repeal any legislation in the future.

Abbott's laws renders virtually all forms of industrial action unlawful and subject to massive fines against unions and individual workers. The ABCC will have unprecedented coercive powers to force people to answer questions under oath and provide information or documents about everyday industrial relations issues and gaol terms of up to 6 months for those who refuse to comply. .

The retention of the ABCC is inconsistent with the principles and platform of the ALP and further that the International Labour Organisation's Committee of Experts and Committee on Freedom of Association have also condemned these laws as inconsistent with International

Conventions signed by Australia.

This repressive legislation has no place in Australian society, holding that the right to silence is a fundamental right and that no Australian citizen should be compelled to answer questions relating to industrial issues or discussions held at union meetings under threat of fines and/or gaol. The CFMEU also rejects the imposition of fines against unions and workers for exercising their democratic right to withdraw labour. Building workers should not be treated differently from other workers.

Conference calls on the NSW State Labor to strongly lobby its federal counterpart to resist and when elected abolish these draconian laws.

Recommendation: Support.

29. CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION

The CFMEU has expressed serious concerns about workers compensation standards for injured workers in New South Wales. It is a tragedy that seriously injured workers in New South Wales are not receiving adequate compensation.

Far from compensating workers fairly, the WorkCover NSW system is extremely punitive. Many workers are seriously injured, and even where they may have a capacity to return to the workforce, many employers are very reluctant to take on someone with a workers compensation injury. The result can be financially devastating for workers and their families. A fair system is not one that reduces the rights to expert legal advice, representation and compensation, but one which takes care of those injured at work and does not compromise on their rights to seek just compensation.

In addition, NSW Workers have to overcome the highest thresholds to sue for damages in the event they are injured by their employer's negligence. The current threshold is so high that the rights of workers to bring such claims have been effectively abolished. Why should injured workers be treated any differently from someone injured in a car accident or who suffer an injury that is not work related? Currently if you are injured by the negligence of your employer you do not have the same rights as those whose injuries do not occur at work. There is no justification for this.

Meanwhile, employers in New South Wales continue to receive successive generous reductions in their premiums, 12.5% in the last 12 months.

Conference calls on the NSW Labor to repeal the changes to workers compensation legislation, including removing work capacity assessments and decisions and bringing back journey cover, to ensure fair and just access to workers compensation and common law damages, including reducing the threshold for access to common

law damages and reintroducing non-economic damages.

Recommendation: Support. Refer to 2012 Conference resolution and note that NSW Opposition Leader John Robertson has announced that if elected, Labor will repeal the Baird Government's workers' compensation laws. Labor will:

- **Conduct a genuine review of the workers compensation scheme;**
- **Restore 'journey claim' to cover workers for injuries occurring on their way to and from work;**
- **Give injured workers the financial assistance they need to pay their medical bills;**
- **Reinstate protection for workers with total and permanent disabilities; and**
- **Improve claims management and return to work outcomes**

30. CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION

The Building and Construction Industry Long Service Payments Act NSW currently provides NSW construction workers with 8.67 weeks' pay after 10 years of employment in the industry. NSW construction workers have a lesser entitlement than most interstate counterparts, where five Australian States/Territories provide construction workers with a higher payment equal to 13 weeks after 10 years of industry service.

This conference calls on NSW Labor to bring long service payments to NSW construction workers in line with the vast majority of Australian States/Territories by supporting an increase of Long Service entitlements for NSW construction workers to 13 weeks after 10 years' employment in the construction industry.

Recommendation: Support.

31. CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION

The CFMEU is gravely concerned about the number of well-established builders and subcontractors that continue to fail in the building and construction industry. Clearly the slow-down in economic worker, the increase competitiveness has pushed down prices and builders and subcontractors are engaged in a race to the bottom to win work. This is contributing to the collapse of builders, the non-payment and therefore failure of subcontractors, and ultimately the non-payment of wages and entitlements to workers. The NSW Liberal Government has contributed to the crisis, by cancelling contracts where it has engaged a failed builder and failed to heed the CFMEU's call for an inquiry in the tendering and

payments scheme in NSW, leaving many small businesses to ruin. Despite many good recommendations coming out of the Collins Inquiry the NSW Liberal Government has failed to even promulgate the simple amendments its made to the Security of Payments regime and delays in tackling reforms that would better protect subcontractors and their employees.

Conference calls on State Labor to commit itself to an overhaul of Security Payments legislation and regulatory system, to ensure that small subcontractors are able to access and benefit from the legislation, and to undertake a broader inquiry into the tendering and payment practices in the industry.

Recommendation: Support.

32. CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION

Under the NSW Liberal Government WorkCover has been gutted and has failed in its role as the safety regulator. Many safety incidences go unpunished and employers are basically left to regulate themselves. Standards in the building and construction industry have slipped and we fear more workers will be killed.

Conference calls on State Labor to commit itself to an overhaul of WorkCover and the safety regulatory system, to ensure that WorkCover is an active enforcer of safety laws so that high safety standards are restored.

Recommendation: Support.

33. DOONSID BRANCH

The Workers Compensation System in New South Wales has been decimated by the current Liberal/National NSW Government. This conference supports the Leader of the Opposition to reverse all the changes undertaken by the current conservative Government and also examine ways on improving the treatment of injured workers so their life-time medical costs are covered and superannuation continues to be maintained whilst they are on workers compensation.

Recommendation: Support. Refer to 2012 Conference resolution and note that NSW Opposition Leader John Robertson has announced that if elected, Labor will repeal the Baird Government's workers' compensation laws. Labor will:

- **Conduct a genuine review of the workers compensation scheme;**
- **Restore 'journey claim' to cover workers for injuries occurring on their way to and from work;**
- **Give injured workers the financial assistance they need to pay their medical bills;**
- **Reinstate protection for workers with total and**

permanent disabilities; and

- Improve claims management and return to work outcomes

Recommendation: Support. Refer to Platform amendment 1.

34. DOONSIDE BRANCH

Conference supports the creation of regulation and legislation of unpaid internships within the Fair Work Act 2009. NSW Labor recognises that current legislation has not kept pace with modern workplace practices in regards to unpaid work required through educational training requirements. Recent examples have included interns not being covered by workers compensation for injuries sustained, expected to undertake overtime, no access to unfair dismissal.

Conference calls for the establishment of a Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into internships and unpaid work (including volunteering for commercial enterprises) to examine the extent and justifiable application of such unpaid work. NSW Labor is committed to supporting young people in the workplace.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

35. ELECTRICAL TRADES UNION

Conference supports the development and rollout of a national portable long service leave and redundancy scheme. Following decades of changes across Australian workplaces there is a need to modernise the way in which Long Service Leave and Redundancy protections are accrued and delivered. NSW state Labor conference supports the development and rollout of a portable national long service leave and redundancy scheme similar in nature to superannuation.

Recommendation: Support in principle. Conference notes that any scheme would have to be national. Refer to National Conference.

36. FINANCE SECTOR UNION

The Call Centre Code

Businesses that tender for call centre contracts from NSW Government entities-including all 'in budget' agencies, statutory authorities and Government owned corporations – will be required to comply with and demonstrate their commitment to a NSW Government Call Centre Code at the pre-qualification stage of tendering process. This code will be developed by NSW ALP in consultation with unions.

Recommendation: Support.

37. HORNSBY SEC

Conference supports the implementation of a Federal Job Guarantee programme that provides employment at the minimum wage to anyone who is unable to find work. NSW Labor calls on the National Labor Party Conference to adopt this policy and work towards its implementation under the next Federal Labor Government.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference

38. INDUSTRIAL STAFF UNION

Conference reaffirms its commitment to WH&S and best practice regulation in place in the NSW sex industry.

Recommendation: Support

39. INDUSTRIAL STAFF UNION

The International Trade Union Commission has released a report on the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, delivering a staggering estimate: Some 4,000 migrant construction workers will die in service to the 2022 Cup before it even begins.

About 1,200 workers have died since 2010, when Qatar was first awarded the tournament.

Conference to condemn the deaths associated with the construction of the World Cup in Qatar.

Recommendation: Support. Refer to National Conference.

40. KATOOMBA BRANCH

That the NSW Labor Party endorses expanding the range of sanctions available to Australian federal corporate regulators and NSW WorkCover against publicly listed companies found in breach of the regulators' legislation and in matters considered more heinous than those which would attract a fine. That this expansion be the ordering of new share issues in favour of the Government to the value imposed by the regulator or court and for the period of time imposed by the regulator or court. Also that after the time imposed these impounded shares be retired.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

41. LAMBTON, NEW LAMBTON & KOTARA BRANCH

457 Visas, mining, Manufacturing and unemployment:

Employment of redundant manufacturing workers:

The constant closing of manufacturing industries has and will put numbers of skilled electricians, plumbers, welders, fitters and turners, builders and labourers out of work. Manufacturing is shedding jobs leaving many skilled workers without employment, these Australian workers must be considered for employment and retraining in

existing and new industries before 457 Visas are granted.

Australian citizen employment paramount:

The Australian Labor Party must provide commitment to the wellbeing of future of employment for Australian citizens by ensuring all avenues for employment of Australian citizens are exhausted before a 457 Visa is granted to any industry. Currently, in the Hunter Valley the Mining Industry and Chicken manufacturers are favouring those on 457 Visas over unemployed local Australian citizens.

This country needs thousands of trade training places in equal proportion to 457 Visas. Significantly, EDI Downer has taken on additional mature age apprentices at their Cardiff plant without resorting to 457 visas. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the mining or chicken industry in the Hunter Valley.

Australian apprenticeships to equal number of 457 Visas:

The Australian Government must commit to a policy in the future by mandating that a significant percentage of training places are available for Australian citizen apprentices in equal proportion to 457 visas.

National Database for all employment sectors before 457 Visas considered:

A national database must be set up to coordinate with all government departments and employment agencies to fill industry jobs. The formula must include related training and employment for all sectors as well as providing places for apprentices. This database should be exhausted before 457 Visas are considered. All departments should coordinate with say Centrelink and all mining, mining related and manufacturing industry jobs advertised nationwide and policed to ensure compliance.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

42. LAMBBTON, NEW LAMBTON AND KOTARA BRANCH

Unemployment and age discrimination policy:

Age discrimination against people aged over 50 who apply for jobs is well researched, documented and accepted. After the pension age has been increased to become eligible for the Aged Pension, how will the Federal/State Governments:

- When reducing the number of public servants to fulfil budget expenditure reduction targets, ensure that, those employees over the age of 50 losing their jobs will not be subject to age discriminations whilst applying for another job?
- What new policies and strategies will the current government implement to reduce dramatically age discrimination in employment?

- What strategies will be in place so that those aged over 50 former government employees and others made redundant due to Government budgetary policies will not be forced to apply for government benefits and therefore increase government expenditure and costs to taxpayers?

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference

43. LAMBBTON, NEW LAMBTON AND KOTARA BRANCH

Industrial Relations:

NSW Labor will restore funding to the Office of Industrial Relations to ensure lawful obligations are met in terms of industrial instruments, workplace safety and workers compensation. NSW Labor will work with Federal agencies to ensure compliance with taxation and superannuation legislation.

Recommendation: Support.

44. MACQUARIE BRANCH

NSW Labor will restore funding to the Office of Industrial Relations to ensure employers are meeting their lawful obligations in terms of industrial instruments, workplace safety and workers compensation. NSW Labor will ensure NSW agencies work closely with Federal agencies to ensure compliance with taxation and superannuation legislation. NSW Labor will ensure that all workers are paid the legal rate of pay, whether they are employed under Federal or State industrial instruments. NSW Labor will facilitate access to up to date information on correct rates of pay to assist small businesses pay the right wages.

Recommendation: Support.

45. MAYFIELD BRANCH

Conference calls on the Leader of the Opposition to deny the import of workers for projects in Australia under 457 Visas; employers should use the current base of under-employed or unemployed workers with the required skills.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

46. MOUNT COLAN-BEROWRA BRANCH

Conference supports the implementation of a Federal Job Guarantee programme that provides employment at the minimum wage to anyone who is unable to find work. NSW Labor calls on the National Labor Party Conference to adopt this policy and work towards its implementation under the next federal Labor Government.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

47. NECASTLE FEC

Conference calls for the speedy acceptance and implementation of the National Safety Code of Practice for the Australian Stevedoring Industry. Conference notes that the fatality rate in the stevedoring industry is substantially higher than those of the construction, manufacturing and seafaring industries which we understand have such codes of practice.

Conference understands that Safe Work Australia has responded to an increase in fatalities by bringing the parties together in a Temporary Advisory Group which has developed a Code of Practice but that it has yet to be implemented owing to the reluctance by the stevedoring companies.

Conference submits that the recent fatalities justify firm action to improve the safety on Australian wharves and urges Government action.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

48. NEWCASTLE FEC

Conference believes a national database should be set up to coordinate with all government departments, unions and employment agencies to fill mining industry jobs. The formula must include related training and employment for all sectors as well as providing places for apprentices. This database should be exhausted before 457 Visas are considered. All departments should coordinate with say Centrelink and all mining industry jobs must be advertised nationwide. The process should be policed to ensure compliance.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

49. NEWCASTLE FEC

Conference believes that the Australian Government must provide a commitment to the future by mandating that a significant percentage of training places is available for apprentices in equal proportion to 457 visas.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

50. NEWCASTLE FEC

Conference believes that the mining industry must be compelled to take redundant workers and provide the necessary training.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference.

51. ROBERTSON FEC

That NSW Labor should seek to introduce a portable entitlements scheme for workers.

Recommendation: Support. Notes that any scheme would have to be national. Refer to National

Conference.

52. SHOP, DISTRIBUTIVE AND ALLIED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (NSW BRANCH)

Conference condemns the current attack on penalty rates being waged by the Federal Government and several employer associations in a coordinated media campaign. This campaign will be followed by applications to cut penalty rates in the Review of Modern Awards. Employers who have labelled penalty rates anachronistic in a 24/7 economy are organising to justify a blatant cost cutting exercise. Penalty rates remain a valid form of compensating employees who work unsociable hours when the majority of the community are enjoying family and/or leisure time.

Recommendation: Support.

53. SHOP, DISTRIBUTIVE AND ALLIED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (NSW BRANCH)

Conference condemns the Abbott Government's use of the Productivity Commission process to further erode work-life-family balance for employees in the services sectors by advocating further deregulation of trading hours on key public holidays.

Recommendation: Support.

54. SHOP, DISTRIBUTIVE AND ALLIED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (NSW BRANCH)

The changing nature of work is resulting in increased encroachment on peoples other needs and responsibilities such as leisure time and family time. Conference calls on the ALP to adopt a policy framework that works towards all citizens being able to access leisure time that is meaningful for them as individuals, as family members and as members of the broader community.

Recommendation: Support.

55. SHOP, DISTRIBUTIVE AND ALLIED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (NSW BRANCH)

Conference calls on COAG to immediately replace the current \$1,000 tax threshold for on line purchases with a flat \$20 threshold. The current \$1,000 threshold provides an unfair advantage for offshore retailers at the cost of Australian jobs.

Recommendation: Support.

56. SHOP, DISTRIBUTIVE AND ALLIED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (NSW BRANCH)

Conference condemns the Federal Abbott Government's decision to freeze compulsory superannuation contributions at 9.5% (1 July 2014) for four (4) years. This freeze will cost the average Australian employee tens of thousands of dollars in lost retirement income.

Recommendation: Support.

57. SHOP, DISTRIBUTIVE AND ALLIED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (NSW BRANCH)

Conference calls on the federal government to remove restrictions on the payment of employer superannuation contributions based on age, minimum hours worked or minimum amounts earned (\$450 per month threshold).

Recommendation: Support.

58. SHOP, DISTRIBUTIVE AND ALLIED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (NSW BRANCH)

This Conference condemns the Federal Abbott Government's proposal to reintroduce the 15% tax on superannuation contributions for those earning less than \$37,000 p.a.

Recommendation: Support.

59. SHOP, DISTRIBUTIVE AND ALLIED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (NSW BRANCH)

It is widely acknowledged that retirement incomes are inadequate for many low and middle income workers. This is particularly the case for injured workers who suffer low superannuation contribution amounts and /or disrupted periods of saving.

In light of the cuts to benefits for injured workers in NSW, Conference calls on the Federal Abbott Government to amend relevant legislation so that workers compensation payments, including top-up payments (where no work is performed by the employee) are included in an employee's ordinary time earnings for the purposes of calculating the Superannuation Guarantee.

Recommendation: Support.

60. SHOP, DISTRIBUTIVE AND ALLIED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (NSW BRANCH)

Conference calls on the NSW ALP to commit to amending the Long Service Act 1955 to guarantee

access to all accrued Long Service Leave at 7 years of service (currently accessible after 10 years service). This improvement would bring the NSW Act into line with the legislative entitlements in the ACT.

Recommendation: Support.

61. SHOP, DISTRIBUTIVE AND ALLIED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (NSW BRANCH)

The proliferation of precarious employment, in particular shorter tenures of employment within industries, is resulting in increasing numbers of employees who are denied access to Long Service Leave (LSL) entitlements. Employers receive the economic benefit of employees' accrued skills being portable within an industry, but the employee does not receive a LSL benefit for these skills which they have applied in their industry over many years.

To address this inequity, Conference calls on the NSW ALP to commit to the establishment of either:

- one general State LSL scheme or
- industry based portable LSL schemes to cover all NSW workers.

Recommendation: Support.

62. THE HILLS BRANCH

That in Government, the Party investigate the viability of reintroducing the Public Service Board.

Recommendation: Reject.

63. TUMBI UMBI BRANCH

We support the SDA's campaign of 100% Pay at 18+. This aims to deliver a fair single adult minimum wage that removes income discrepancies and pay discrimination faced by adults aged 18-20.

Recommendation: Support

64. UNITED SERVICES UNION

This Conference endorses a Local Government Procurement Policy which includes the use of a workforce whose salary and conditions are determined by a collective bargaining instrument, ie. State or Federal EBA or the NSW State Local Government Award and whose health, safety and welfare at work are protected by all WHS legislation, regulations and Codes of Practice.

Recommendation: Support.

65. UNITED SERVICES UNION

The USU calls on Conference to demand the State Labor Party to repeal the regressive, worker-unfriendly

Workers Compensation legislation introduced by the current Coalition State Government, when they are re-elected to govern NSW.

Furthermore, the State Labor Party confirms that the repeal of the Workers

Compensation legislation is one of their core Party platforms to campaign on.

Recommendation: Support. Refer to 2012 Conference resolution and note that NSW Opposition Leader John Robertson has announced that if elected, Labor will repeal the Baird Government's workers' compensation laws. Labor will:

- **Conduct a genuine review of the workers compensation scheme;**
- **Restore 'journey claim' to cover workers for injuries occurring on their way to and from work;**
- **Give injured workers the financial assistance they need to pay their medical bills;**
- **Reinstate protection for workers with total and permanent disabilities; and**
- **Improve claims management and return to work outcomes**

66. UNITED SERVICES UNION

The USU calls on Conference to uphold the role and need for the NSW Industrial

Relations Commission recognising its historical and practical importance as the independent umpire with its powers to conciliate and arbitrate. Furthermore Conference notes the continuing need for the NSW IRC to sit at both Newcastle and Wollongong for the purpose of ensuring workplace industrial fairness is maintained in these cities and surrounding regions.

Recommendation: Support.

67. UNITED SERVICES UNION

The United Services Union insists all women should be treated with dignity and respect at work. The USU calls on NSW Labor to pursue policies to ensure that women do not experience intimidation at work. NSW Labor must ensure that women working in rural and regional areas in particular benefit from workplace protections, as women working in rural and regional areas may have limited alternative employment opportunities in the local community.

Recommendation: Support.

68. UNITED SERVICES UNION

The United Services Union believes that flexible workplace arrangements are essential for women to achieve an appropriate work-life balance. The USU calls on NSW

Labor to pursue policies that provide women with options to adopt flexible workplace arrangements.

Recommendation: Support.

69. UNITED SERVICES UNION

NSW Labor recognises that many older women face financial insecurity in retirement. The United Services Union calls on NSW Labor to adopt policies that address the disadvantages that many older women face in retirement as a consequence of relatively limited superannuation and savings.

Recommendation: Support.

70. UNITED SERVICES UNION

NSW Labor recognises the important role that affordable and accessible childcare plays in allowing women to participate in the workforce. The United Services Union calls on NSW Labor to increase the number of affordable and accessible childcare places across NSW with increased funding when returned to government.

Recommendation: Support in principle, but notes the continued debate about the different methods of childcare and access to funding. Acknowledges the work of the former Labor Federal Government for its record investment in Early Childhood Education and Care and its commitment to a quality early childhood sector.

71. UNITED SERVICES UNION

NSW Labor recognises that many women returning to work after maternity leave face employment discrimination, with many women finding that their position has been made redundant or that they are unable to adopt a suitable arrangement that provides them with flexibility necessary to fulfil their family responsibilities. The United Services Union calls on NSW Labor to protect the rights of new mothers returning to the workplace and ensure that NSW Government agencies and local councils are model employers in this regard.

Recommendation: Support.

72. UNITED SERVICES UNION

NSW Labor recognises that women are disproportionately represented in sectors of the workforce which are low-paid, casualised positions and job security. The United Services Union calls on NSW Labor to provide more support to women so that they may be employed in fairly remunerated.

Recommendation: Support.

73. UNITED SERVICES UNION

The United Services Union calls on NSW Labor to provide more assistance to women who choose to study while working.

Recommendation: Support.

74. UNITED SERVICES UNION

NSW Labor recognises the importance of workers understanding the industrial relations system as a means to advance their interest at work.

The United Services Union calls for greater education and public awareness campaigns to improve people's knowledge of their rights at work.

Recommendation: Support.

75. UNITED VOICE

Education and Skills United Voice NSW School Cleaning

The NSW Government's stated objective is to increasingly roll out greater autonomy for NSW Schools. Teaching and some capital works budgets are already being 'devolved' and cleaning and maintenance services may also be next.

The current contract to provide facilities maintenance in NSW Schools is worth \$2 billion over 5 years and is due to expire in mid-2016. Four large companies are engaged to clean more than 3,000 separate sites, including 2,421 schools sites and 187 TAFE sites, as well as police stations, court houses and government offices.

The women and men who clean our public schools and government sites in New South Wales are dedicated, trained and experienced cleaners who are a part of their school's community.

Should the contract be broken apart to serve a cost-cutting ideological agenda to decentralise school support services, NSW Schools will no longer be guaranteed clean, safe and hygienic.

Private cleaning services will race to the bottom on quality of cleaning services and cost, leaving our schools with a minimal cleaning service.

Devolution of cleaning services to a local level has already happened in other States like Victoria and it has been a disaster. It has meant jobs lost in the transition of contracts, poor pay and conditions and dirty schools.

Action

Conference supports the provision of NSW Schools cleaning and maintenance services as a responsibility of the NSW Government managed by NSW Finance and Services and NSW Education and Communities.

Conference rejects any attempts to devolve responsibility for cleaning services to a local school or regional level, which could require school principals to spend time contracting and managing a cleaning service.

Conference notes the quality of the work that school cleaners perform, that they provide a service to local school communities and that our children deserve a clean, safe and hygienic learning environment in NSW Schools.

Recommendation: Support.

76. UNITED VOICE

Professional Wages for Early Childhood Educators

Conference applauds the creation of the Early Years Quality Fund in the last term of the Federal Labor Government to supplement wages for low-paid educators early childhood education and care. Conference notes the Abbott Government's closure of the fund an attempts prevent further progress on the issue through the Fair Work Australia Pay Equity Unit.

Conference recognises the professionalism and dedication of early childhood educators. Their work shapes the development of a generation of young Australians and allows parents, especially women, to participate in the workforce. Conference notes that wages for early childhood educators do not begin to reflect the value of the work educators do, and contribute to high staff turnover in the sector.

Action

NSW Labor calls on the Federal Government to commit to recurrent funding professional wages in the early childhood education sector in order to ensure the highest standards of quality education and care.

Recommendation: Refer to National Conference

77. YOUNG LABOR

SDA's 100% Pay at 18+ Campaign

NSW Labor congratulates the SDA on their successful application to Fair Work Australia that the General Retail Industry Award should be changed to ensure that 20-year-olds are paid full adult rates. These changes will be phased in from July 1 this year, bringing them in line with other adult workers by 2015.

Motion:

NSW Labor congratulates the SDA on their successful application to the Fair Work Commission to end pay disparity for 20-year-old workers.

If an 18 year old has the right to vote, join the military and be treated equally under the law, they should also be entitled to receive the same level of pay as other workers.

NSW Labor stands with the SDA, and all trade unions, in their continued campaign to achieve fair pay for 18 – 19 year olds.

Recommendation: Support.

STRONGER DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

PLATFORM AMENDMENTS

1. AUBURN BRANCH

Platform Amendment - State support for the extension of community preselections

Amend platform point 2.33 to insert a further dot point:

The State Electoral Commission should have its mandate extended to allow it to conduct preselections for registered political parties on a full cost basis where:

The preselection involves an eligibility to vote that extends to electors who are not financial members of the party; and

The assistance of the Commission is requested by the relevant party.

Recommendation: Support in principle. Such a model would only be feasible if publicly funded due to the cost involved. Refer to the Rules Committee.

2. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Stronger Democracy and Social Justice: justice reinvestment

Conference recognises that incarceration in NSW is expensive and ineffective at reducing crime. It costs \$200,000 per year to detain a juvenile, and when they are released there is a 80% chance they will reoffend.

Justice Reinvestment recognizes that investing in services that catch people likely to commit crimes and rehabilitate them prior to their criminal behaviour becoming entrenched not only reduces crime more effectively, but reduces costs to the taxpayer.

That a new section is added prior to Section 2.57 of the Platform titled 'Justice Reinvestment for young people' with the following content:

"NSW Labor is committed to reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal young people in our justice systems, and is committed to preventative programs that will save taxpayers money, reduce crime and improve outcomes for young people."

Recommendation: Amend Platform to insert after section 2.56 a new heading and section, then renumber:

Justice Reinvestment for Young People

2.57 NSW Labor is committed to reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal young people in our

justice systems, and is committed to preventative programs that will save taxpayers money, reduce crime and improve outcomes for young people.

3. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Stronger Democracy and Social Justice: homelessness

Conference recognises that every night in Australia, over 100,000 people experience homelessness. Over half of these will be unable to access support as services are stretched to breaking.

The NSW Coalition government has commenced the largest restructure of the homelessness sector in a generation. This will include the de-funding dozens of homelessness services that have been working tirelessly in the community for decades.

That Labor in opposition and in government reaffirms its commitment to supporting all people who experience homelessness in Australia.

That Labor condemns the actions of the Abbott and Baird Governments in turning their backs on our community's most vulnerable.

That section 2.20 of the Platform be amended to 'Homelessness'.

That section 2.20 be amended to:

'NSW Labor recognizes that an effective network of crisis, medium and long-term homelessness support services are vital to our community.

NSW Labor supports adequate funding for specific homelessness services for young people, women leaving domestic violence, families with children and GLBTIQ people'.

Recommendation: Amend Platform to delete the heading 'Crisis Accomodation' after section 2.19 and replace with 'Homelessness'. Delete section 2.20 and insert:

2.20 NSW Labor recognises that an effective network of crisis, medium and long-term homelessness support services are vital to our community. NSW Labor supports adequate funding for specialist homelessness services for all people who require such services.

4. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Stronger Democracy and Social Justice: corrective services

Conference recognises international research that demonstrates the value of innovative models of working with prisoner in the 6 months prior to their release into

the community, and post-release. Improving access to housing, employment and support significantly reduces the number that fall back into offending behaviour.

Youth Drug and Alcohol Courts have been an effective method of reducing crime by juvenile offenders where addiction impacts on their criminal behaviour. These courts were de-funded by the current Baird government in 2012.

That the bullet point in Section 2.57 of the Platform be amended to include:

“These programs, where appropriate, should be provided to juvenile offenders.”

That the bullet point in Section 2.57 of the Platform be amended to include:

“...run by the department of Juvenile Justice”

That an additional bullet point be added to Section 2.57:

“Rehabilitation of prisoners is of the utmost importance in reducing crime, saving taxpayers money and improving our communities. Measures shown to have international evidence in reducing recidivism shall be implemented.”

Recommendation: Amend platform to add an additional point at the end of section 2.57:

- **Rehabilitation of prisoners is important in reducing crime, saving taxpayers money and improving our communities. Measures shown to have international evidence in reducing recidivism shall be implemented.**

5. ERSKINEVILLE BRANCH/GLEBE BRANCH/SURRY HILLS BRANCH

Remove religious exceptions from anti-discrimination law

Preamble

LGBTI people in NSW now enjoy anti-discrimination protections under the Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (thanks to the Sex Discrimination Amendment (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status) Act 2013. Homosexual and transgender people also enjoy anti-discrimination protection under the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.

However, both the Sex Discrimination Act and the Anti-Discrimination Act provide wide-ranging exceptions to religious organisations, allowing them to discriminate against LGBT employees, and people accessing services, in education, healthcare, community services, aged care (although not people accessing aged care services) and other areas of public life.

These religious exceptions fundamentally undermine the principle that all people should be treated equally, irrespective of sexual orientation or gender identity. All religious exceptions should be removed beyond those required for the appointment of ministers of religion/

religious office-holders and the conduct of religious ceremonies.

Platform

Under the heading Promoting Civil Liberties, after paragraph 2.43 on page 14, add a new paragraph:

“NSW Labor supports amending the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 to:

- Remove exceptions provided to religious organisations in education, healthcare, community services, aged care and other areas of public life;
- Provide limited exceptions for religious organisations for the purposes of appointing ministers of religion/ religious office-holders and the conduct of religious ceremonies.

NSW Labor also calls on the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party to support moves to remove religious exceptions contained in the Sex Discrimination Act 1984, outside those required for the appointment of ministers of religion/ religious office-holders and the conduct of religious ceremonies.”

Recommendation: Reject.

6. ERSKINEVILLE BRANCH/GLEBE BRANCH/SURRY HILLS BRANCH

Expand coverage of NSW anti-discrimination law to cover bisexuality and intersex status

Preamble

The NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1984 currently does not provide anti-discrimination protection to people on the basis of bisexuality or on the basis of intersex status.

Platform

Under the heading Promoting Civil Liberties, after paragraph 2.43 on page 14, add a new paragraph:

“NSW Labor supports amending the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 to ensure protection on the basis of bisexuality and intersex status, following consultation with bisexual and intersex community groups and providing this does not result in a diminution of protections under state and Commonwealth law.”

Recommendation: Refer to existing section 2.43 of the Platform.

7. ERSKINEVILLE BRANCH/GLEBE BRANCH/SURRY HILLS BRANCH

Expunging historical convictions for gay sex

Preamble

The criminalisation of sexual activity solely on the basis of same-sex activity is, and always was, fundamentally

unjust. This applies to the criminalisation of homosexuality in NSW prior to 1984, and to convictions due to the differential age of consent which was applied to homosexual activity between 1984 and 2003.

The 2014 NSW ALP conference is taking place on the same weekend which marks 30 years since the decriminalisation of homosexuality, achieved under the Wran Labor Government (taking effect on June 8 1984). To mark this historic anniversary, the NSW ALP commits to remedying outstanding injustices from past eras.

Platform

Under the heading Promoting Civil Liberties, after paragraph 2.49 on page 14, add the following paragraph:

“NSW Labor supports State Parliament making a formal apology to all people convicted under NSW on the basis of their homosexuality, including:

- People convicted prior to the decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1984; and
- People convicted between 1984 and 2003 who would not have been convicted were it not for the fact the offence involved same-sex sexual activity (i.e., due to the unequal age of consent)

NSW Labor also supports the establishment of a process whereby people affected by these laws can have any and all relevant criminal records expunged.”

Recommendation: Amend Platform to insert after section 2.49, then renumber

2.50 NSW Labor supports State Parliament making a formal apology to all people convicted under NSW law on the basis of their homosexuality.

8. ERSKINEVILLE BRANCH/GLEBE BRANCH/SURRY HILLS BRANCH

Ban ex-gay/conversion therapy

Preamble

While less common than in the United States, some groups in NSW actively promote, and practice, ex-gay or, aimed at changing a person's sexual orientation from lesbian, gay or bisexual to heterosexual, or gender identity from trans* to cisgender. Not only are these practices discredited, they are extremely dangerous, preying on vulnerable people who may be experiencing mental health issues as a result of societal homophobia, biphobia and transphobia.

Platform amendment

Under the heading Promoting a Healthy Society, on pages 33 and 34, insert a new paragraph:

“NSW Labor will move to ban so-called ‘ex-gay therapy’ (a practice which attempts to ‘convert’ LGBT people into being heterosexual and/or cisgender). This will include

introducing a criminal offence for people conducting ex-gay therapy, with an aggravated offence, including higher penalties, where it involves people under the age of 18. NSW Labor will also investigate the possible deregistration of any counsellors, psychologists or other registered medical professionals involved in the practice of ex-gay therapy.”

Recommendation: That the proposed Platform amendment not be adopted and the issue be referred to the relevant State and Federal Shadow Ministers for consideration.

9. ERSKINEVILLE BRANCH/GLEBE BRANCH/SURRY HILLS BRANCH

LGBTI/equality portfolio, advisory committees and anti-homophobia campaign

Preamble

Despite substantial progress since the first significant piece of LGBTI law reform in NSW (amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Act in 1982), LGBTI people continue to experience a range of differential, and negative, outcomes legally, and in health, education and other community services. LGBTI people also experience the adverse effects of homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and anti-intersex discrimination on a daily basis.

While specific areas of reform can be identified and remedied, achieving genuine equality for LGBTI people will require sustained and dedicated attention, in the form of an LGBTI or equality spokesperson, supported in Government by specific advisory committees. The Government should also support community action to help reduce the homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and anti-intersex discrimination LGBTI people experience on a society-wide level.

Platform

After the heading Promoting Civil Liberties, after paragraph 2.49 on page 14, insert the following:

“LGBTI equality spokesperson and advisory committees

Recognising the ongoing inequality of LGBTI people in NSW, Labor will appoint a parliamentary spokesperson for LGBTI issues/equality. In Government, NSW Labor will also appoint LGBTI ministerial advisory committees in the Justice/Attorney-General, Health and Education portfolios. Together with the parliamentary spokesperson, these committees, drawn from the community, will have responsibility for helping to recommend policies to help address homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and anti-intersex discrimination in NSW.

NSW Labor will also fund a state-wide anti-homophobia campaign in its first term. This campaign will be aimed at reducing the harassment, discrimination and violence experienced by LGBTI people in the community.”

Recommendation: Refer to existing section 2.2 of Platform. Conference notes the allocation of portfolios is a matter for the State Parliamentary Labor Party Leader.

10. ERSKINEVILLE BRANCH/GLEBE BRANCH/SURRY HILLS BRANCH

Overseas surrogacy

The criminal prohibition of overseas commercial surrogacy in NSW (including but not limited to surrogacy arrangements for same-sex male couples), following amendments made in 2010, does not appear to have stopped the practice. Instead, it has simply made some new families into criminals.

In light of this, it is sensible to review the impact of the 2010 reforms, particularly with a view to considering whether commercial surrogacy arrangements are best undertaken overseas (in arrangements that cannot be directly overseen) or within NSW, where they can be strictly regulated.

Platform

"NSW Labor will review the criminal prohibition of overseas commercial surrogacy arrangements, as introduced in 2010. As part of this review, Labor will ask the NSW Law Reform Commission to investigate alternative models for the regulation of commercial surrogacy, including designing a model which regulates commercial surrogacy within NSW, with the goal of minimising concerns about the potential exploitation of women, for the consideration of Parliament."

Recommendation: Reject

11. ERSKINEVILLE BRANCH/GLEBE BRANCH/SURRY HILLS BRANCH

Under the heading Children and Families, at para 2.5 on page 11, after the dot point "Be protected from all forms of abuse" add new dot point "Be protected from all forms of discrimination."

Recommendation: Amend the second point in section 2.5 of the Platform to:

2.5 NSW Labor believes all children should:

- **Be protected from all forms of abuse and discrimination.**

12. ERSKINEVILLE BRANCH/GLEBE BRANCH/SURRY HILLS BRANCH

Under the heading Providing Home and Community Care Services (HACC), at para 2.19 on page 12, at the end of the dot point "Be culturally accessible and appropriate" add the words "and respectful of diversity in terms of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status."

Recommendation: Amend the Platform to change the second point in section 2.19:

2.19 NSW Labor believes HACC services must be planned and:

- **Be culturally accessible and appropriate, and respectful of diversity**

13. ERSKINEVILLE BRANCH/GLEBE BRANCH/SURRY HILLS BRANCH

Under the heading Fostering Youth Participation, at para 2.28 on page 13, after the last dot point add new dot point "Freedom to identify as LGBTI and freedom from discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status."

Recommendation: Amend the Platform to add a new point at the end of section 2.28:

2.28 NSW Labor believes that young people have the right to:

- **Freedom from discrimination**

14. ERSKINEVILLE BRANCH/GLEBE BRANCH/SURRY HILLS BRANCH

Under the heading Fostering Youth Participation, at para 2.31 on page 13, at the end of the dot point "Increase the scope of ... deemed to be particularly "at risk" add the words "including same-sex attracted, gender diverse and intersex youth in rural and remote areas."

Recommendation: Amend the Platform to change the end of the second dot point of section 2.31 to:

2.31 NSW Labor recognises youth suicide as a major public health issue. NSW Labor will work to achieve a reduction in youth suicides by striving to achieve a better quality of life for young people, and will:

- **Increase the scope of funding for support programs for those sections of this community deemed to be particularly 'at risk,' including those exposed to domestic violence, those experiencing drug and alcohol addiction, those with mental health issues and same-sex attracted, gender diverse and intersex youth**

15. INDUSTRIAL STAFF UNION

Platform

State support for the extension of community preselections

Amend platform point 2.33 to insert a further dot point:

The State Electoral Commission should have its mandate extended to allow it to conduct preselections for registered

political parties on a full cost basis where:

- The preselection involves an eligibility to vote that extends to electors who are not financial members of the party; and
- The assistance of the Commission is requested by the relevant party.

Recommendation: Support in principle. Such a model would only be feasible if publicly funded due to the cost involved. Refer to the Rules Committee.

16. INDUSTRIAL STAFF UNION

The provision of ageing and disability services is a core responsibility of government.

The introduction of the NDIS is being used to justify the transfer of publicly provided disability and home care services to the private and non-government sectors, but we fail to see the connection between better funding for the disability sector and the NSW Government's decision to abandon publicly delivered disability and home care services in our state.

By privatising all disability services the NSW Government risks repeating previous public policy failures. History demonstrates that the non-government sector does not offer a „fail-safe solution“ when it comes to providing complex social services.

All the available evidence suggests that the disability sector in NSW will need to grow significantly to cater for an increase in demand for services over the next few years.

The public sector and its highly trained and professional staff are well positioned to meet those future challenges.

Moreover, the decision in NSW to abandon public sector disability services will only increase pressure on the sector by removing critical existing infrastructure, specialist services and a key provider from the range of options currently available to people with a disability.

The move will also cause a major disruption for clients forced into new carer arrangements.

The Productivity Commission Report actually envisaged a mix of service providers including non-government organisations, disability service organisations, state and territory governments, individuals and mainstream businesses.

Surely, if NDIS is to be genuinely “person centred” then people with disability and their families should have the choice to remain with their public provider.

As the NDIS takes shape, NSW will need a strong public sector presence in disability services.

Platform

Insert the following points to Stronger Democracy and

Social Justice, Supporting the Disabled:

- NSW Labor supports the social benefit of a broad and diverse mix of ageing and disability service providers, including the continuing role of the public sector as a provider of front-line disability and home care services.
- The provision of public sector disability care in NSW should always remain as a critical safety net for the most difficult of cases, as a benchmark for industry standards, and to maintain the quality availability of disability services in Regional NSW.

Recommendation: Amend the Platform to change the heading ‘Supporting the Disabled’ to ‘Supporting People with Disabilities’. Insert the following after section 2.15, then renumber:

2.16 NSW Labor supports the social benefit of a broad and diverse mix of ageing and disability service providers, including the continuing role of the public sector as a provider of front-line disability and home care services.

2.17 NSW Labor believes that the provision of public sector disability care in NSW should always remain as a critical safety net for the most difficult of cases, as a benchmark for industry standards, and to maintain the quality availability of disability services in Regional NSW.

17. UNITED VOICE

That the Platform be amended by including the following in the “Stronger Democracy and Social Justice” chapter:

A New Standard -Zero Tolerance of Corruption:

NSW Labor is committed to stamping out corruption. Corruption is not only a legal issue, but also one of social justice. It fouls democracy, and redirects public resources away from the common good toward venal special interests. NSW deserves honest, transparent and accountable Government. In particular, citizens have a right to expect that MPs and Ministers will behave ethically and put the community's interests ahead of their own.

Anyone found to have acted corruptly, will be expelled from the Labor Party.

Labor will introduce a New Standard and legislate to:

- Appoint an Inspector General for Parliamentary Standards, with powers to conduct audits, investigate and penalise MPs who breach the Code of Conduct.
- Give the public access to MP's financial interests including their taxable income and details about the pecuniary interests of spouses and dependents.
- Require MPs to disclose details of any family member who holds contracts with the state

government.

- Require Ministers every month to publish a diary of every meeting they have had with lobbyists, MPs or private companies relating to commercial transactions or decisions.
- Ensure that no MP will be allowed to work a second job.
- Require mining exploration licences to be scrutinised by an independent probity panel and subject to approval by Cabinet.
- Strengthen protection for whistleblowers. Employees in the private sector will receive the same protection as public servants.
- Implement the recommendations of the ICAC to reduce the opportunities and incentives for corruption.

Recommendation: Amend the Platform to insert a new heading and section after section 2.33, then renumber:

A New Standard – Zero Tolerance of Corruption

NSW Labor is committed to stamping out corruption. Corruption is not only a legal issue, but also one of social justice. It fouls democracy, and redirects public resources away from the common good toward venal special interests. NSW deserves honest, transparent and accountable Government. In particular, citizens have a right to expect that MPs and Ministers will behave ethically and put the community's interests ahead of their own.

Anyone found to have acted corruptly, will be expelled from the Labor Party.

Labor will introduce a New Standard and legislate to:

- **Appoint an Inspector General for Parliamentary Standards, with powers to conduct audits, investigate and penalise MPs who breach the Code of Conduct.**
- **Give the public access to MP's financial interests including their taxable income and details about the pecuniary interests of spouses and dependents.**
- **Require MPs to disclose details of any family member who holds contracts with the state government.**
- **Require Ministers every month to publish a diary of every meeting they have had with lobbyists, MPs or private companies relating to commercial transactions or decisions.**
- **Ensure that no MP will be allowed to actively work in secondary paid employment.**

- **Require mining exploration licences to be scrutinised by an independent probity panel and subject to approval by Cabinet.**
- **Strengthen protection for whistleblowers. Employees in the private sector will receive the same protection as public servants.**
- **Implement the recommendations of the ICAC to reduce the opportunities and incentives for corruption.**

18. WEST WALLSEND BRANCH

That the platform be amended to include:

"Any NSW State Labor Government will seek amendments to the legal system relating to domestic violence against women and increase the penalties relating to the harassment/assault of women seeking relief from domestic violence.

Further the government will increase the funding available to assist to house and shelter women and families in such situations."

Recommendation: Amend Platform to insert a new heading and section after 2.11:

Supporting victims of domestic violence

2.12 NSW Labor will seek amendments to the legal system relating to domestic violence against women and increase the penalties relating to the harassment/assault of women seeking relief from domestic violence. Labor will increase the funding available to assist to house and shelter women and families in such situations.

19. YOUNG LABOR

Women with Disabilities in the Workplace

Preamble

The social and economic advantages of being employed are well recorded. There is longstanding CSTDA data highlighting many fewer women with disabilities than men in disability funded employment.

Currently, research says that 60% of men with disabilities are being assisted into employment, compared to 40% of women with disabilities.

The unemployment rate for men with disabilities has dropped significantly, since 1998, but has changed little for women with disabilities.

Employment is an area where the NDIS could make significant difference to women and girls.

The vulnerability of women living with a disability is exacerbated by the economic disadvantage that stems from limited workplace opportunities. Alarming, there

is currently a vast disparity between the labour force participation rates of men and women living with a disability.

Specifically, the labour force participation rate of women with disability is 49 per cent which sits well below the participation rate of males with disability which is currently 69 per cent.

NSW Labor recognises that these statistics are unacceptable.

Platform

NSW Labor supports the expansion of workplace initiatives targeted at providing women living with a disability, support in contributing to the workforce. NSW Labor recognises the individualised support the National Disability Insurance Scheme (Disability Care) will provide to women with disabilities, access to employment opportunities.

Specifically, this includes incorporating an Affirmative Action framework into the allocation of funds from the NSW Government's Employment Assistance Fund (EAF). This would involve providing extra financial assistance to employers who wish to employ women living with a disability.

Recommendation: Amend Platform to add at the end of the section on People with Disabilities, then renumber:

2.16 NSW Labor supports the expansion of workplace initiatives targeted at providing women living with a disability.

STRONGER DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

AGENDA ITEMS

1. ALBURY BRANCH

The issue of the “Right to defend yourself in court” means that the accused, in a sexual assault case, could cross-examine the victim. Therefore, changes are needed for the sake of the victim.

Recommendation: Note. The former NSW Labor Government banned self-represented defendants from cross-examining complainants in sexual assault cases in 2003.

2. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Social Security for young people

This Conference expresses deep concern at federal budget proposals to deprive young people of payments and employment services, that would make it harder for them to get ahead, especially those with no family support or from low income families.

Conference recognises that the wage subsidy scheme has been very effective in getting people who have been out of work for extended periods into ‘real’ jobs, while Youth Connections and the School Business Community Partnership Broker program have helped many thousands of young people who had disengaged or were at risk of disengaging from education or employment.

Conference recognises that the latest figures show youth unemployment is twice the general unemployment rate (12.2%) and as high as 20% among 15-24 year olds in some parts of the country.

Conference believes that the draconian measures introduced in the federal budget, including a reduction in funding for employment assistance, making it harder for many people to find work will create severe hardship for young people.

That Labor in opposition will use all means available to oppose cuts to services in support of young people.

That Labor in government will reinstate these programs and undertake a review of services in order to fill gaps and ensure that particularly vulnerable young people are provided with the support and opportunities they need to live safely and with dignity in good health with access to good quality skills training.

Recommendation: Support

3. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Retirement Age & Newstart

Raising the pension age is bad economics and bad social policy. It is an ineffective and inefficient way to address the issue of sustainability of support for older Australians and inequitable because it targets the most vulnerable people:

- Those eligible for the full aged pension are likely to have been on low incomes all their lives.
- Those who have physically taxing work will find it more difficult to continue in this work to a later age, particularly if they have health issues.
- As the gender gap continues to widen in paid employment, women have less superannuation and will therefore be disproportionately affected.
- Significant discrimination against older workers continues, mitigating against continuing employment for those people waiting longer to be able to retire on a pension, forcing many older Australians to continue to rely upon social security at the lower unemployment benefit rate.

The Aged Pension is a vital shield against poverty for older people and many people of working age, and it is frugal by international standards. Closing the gap between the adequacy of the unemployment payment, and pensions should not be achieved by cutting the adequacy of pensions, but by lifting the adequacy of Newstart. Raising the rate and indexation of Newstart is an urgent and overdue reform, widely supported across business, economists, unions and the community sector.

Reducing indexation for pensions to inflation only instead of wage movements will inevitably increase poverty as people on the lowest income fall further behind the rest of the community. One of the main reasons Newstart Allowance is only \$36 a day now is that it has only been indexed to the CPI for the last 20 years.

That Labor in opposition and in government will oppose any increase in the retirement age.

That Labor in opposition and in government will increase working age payments to a livable level.

That Labor in opposition and in government will work to improve the employment prospects of older people.

That Labor in opposition and in government will work to increase the preservation age for superannuation so that it is the same as the pension age.

That Labor in opposition and in government will work to close the gap between pensions and allowances so that people who are unemployed, sole parents and students, also benefit from payment increases awarded to single pensioners.

Recommendation: Support in principle

4. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

A dignified welfare system

Some of the most disadvantaged sections of our community are overrepresented in the statistics of Newstart recipients. These include indigenous people, older workers, people with a disability and people with undiagnosed mental health conditions. There has not been a real increase to the Newstart allowance since 1994.

Conference recognizes that the current rate of the Newstart allowance for people who are out of work is grossly inadequate as a means of supporting the unemployed or resourcing them to find work.

That in opposition and in government Labor will work to support unemployed people to get back into the workforce and will raise the current level of NSA by \$50 per week, benchmarking the single rate to 66.3% of the combined married couple rate.

Recommendation: Note and refer to National Conference.

5. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Mandatory Sentencing for alcohol related crimes

Mandatory Sentencing has been proven to provide almost no utility in terms of preventing or discouraging crime. Other jurisdictions like the United States are comprehensively removing it because it is no deterrent and it is just expensive to lock people up for longer for no reason.

Current NSW mandatory sentencing laws for alcohol fuelled assaults mandates a minimum 8 years incarceration for a person found to be drunk at the time of an assault. However, a minimum of 2 years incarceration applies if the assailant is not drunk. It is unacceptable that there are higher penalties for a person who commits an alcohol related assault relative to a person who repeatedly commits acts of domestic violence while sober.

The state government's attempt to apply mandatory minimum sentences to 68 different offences including assault police would remove any discretion from judges to award fair sentences based upon the seriousness of the offence. This increases the likelihood of perverse outcomes as juries acquit people of crimes they know they have committed in the belief that the mandatory minimum sentence is too harsh.

Conference recognises that mandatory sentencing has failed everywhere it has been tried and will not work in NSW either.

That Labor in opposition and in government will work to overturn current NSW mandatory sentencing legislation

Recommendation: Support in principle.

6. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

CBD Lock out legislation

Conference recognizes that lockout laws which came into effect earlier this year are a kneejerk reaction which fails to address the causes of alcoholism and violence, but instead aims to treat one highly publicised symptom of those problems.

Sydney is a 24 hour city with a rich nightlife culture which millions enjoy every year in peace. The lockout laws damage this culture and the international standing which comes with it. Tourism dollars and bar jobs will be lost.

The current laws mean violent people will be moved into the streets, to venues outside the lockout zone, and to their homes. They are an "out of sight, out of mind" solution to a complex problem, which will move violence rather than reduce it.

Similarly, money that would have been spent on taxable alcohol will likely be diverted to the purchase of illegal drugs, reducing tax revenue and increasing crime.

Conference notes that James Packer's development at Barangaroo has been excluded from the Sydney CBD Entertainment Precinct in which the laws have effect.

Labor in government will:

- Support a repeal of the lockout laws;
- Oppose the mischaracterisation of alcohol-related violence;
- Support alternative solutions to alcohol-related violence which address the social problems of alcoholism and domestic violence.

Recommendation: Reject.

7. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Asylum seekers and refugees

The NSW state conference has repeatedly endorsed a refugee policy that is humane and in line with our progressive values. The failure of Labor to implement Labor policy in parliament has meant that Labor members, and the community at large, are disappointed with Labor's inhumane approach to this critical human rights issue. Labor in government has implemented a policy approach in this area that is entirely inconsistent with the Party's policy.

NSW Labor condemns the FPLP for consistently voting

against party policy on the treatment of asylum seekers and humane policy on refugee boat arrivals.

Conference recognises that asylum seekers and refugees flee persecution to seek a better life. Many who seek it in Australia end up detained indefinitely, divided from their families.

Conference also recognises that Australia has responsibilities at international law which are being openly flouted by the current federal government, whose policy of deterrence is predicated on being crueller to refugees than the persecutors who they are fleeing. This is unjustifiable.

Conference recognizes that conditions of detention at Manus Island and other detention centres are inhumane and degrading.

The Migration Act has been amended to prevent refugees with adverse security assessments from seeking protection visas. These assessments are made by ASIO, and cannot be reviewed.

NSW Labor will train and recruit Party activists to run campaigns between elections that will allow Labor to promote a progressive agenda directly to the country

Labor in opposition and in government will support legislation that:

- Increases Australia's annual refugee intake.
- Opposes inhumane detention of refugees and asylum seekers.
- Opposes indefinite detention of refugees and asylum seekers.
- Opposes the use of secretive, non-reviewable assessments to bar claims for protection.
- Is consistent with safety at sea

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

8. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Family violence and sexual assault

Conference recognises that violence against women is a major social injustice in NSW, which has an inequitable impact on women, particularly Aboriginal women and those who are vulnerable as a result of disability, mental illness, poverty.

The ABS reports that 1 in 5 women will experience sexual assault and 1 in 3 will experience domestic violence. In 2013 there were 10,700 reports of sexual and indecent assault to NSW Police in 2013

While NSW has 33% of the country's population, the estimated cost of violence against women in Australia in 2022 if nothing is done is predicted to be \$15.5 billion dollars.

Labor in opposition and as a priority for their first term in government will introduce legislation that effectively responds to and reduces violence against women.

The framework for that legislation will include:

- Continuing Law Reform in Sex Crimes and Domestic Violence
- Piloting of specialised sexual assault courts
- Improving police training and capacity building
- Building the capacity of support services to include trauma recovery counselling
- Enhancing the 'staying home leaving violence' programs
- Increasing emergency, refuge and medium to long term accommodation
- Implementing the recommendations of the Men and Boys Violence Prevention Project which aims to prevent the violence through behaviour change.

Recommendation: Support.

9. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

The right to silence and right to not self incriminate

Conference recognises that it has become increasingly common for state legislation to remove the right to silence and the right to not self incriminate for NSW citizens, while providing ineffective protection for legitimate whistle blowers. Clear examples include the NSW Rail Safety Act and the NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011 .

Powers of coercion are not acceptable against construction workers, transport industry workers, any workers. These sections of the Act must be repealed immediately and should not be used as a precedent for other legislation against any other worker in NSW.

Labor in opposition will seek to introduce legislation and in government will introduce legislation that will:

1. Eliminate the right of the Independent Regulator to disclose information acquired in the performance of its functions, including personal and identifying information about employees. This is of particular concern to so called "whistle blowers" as well as other employees who may have information that should be disclosed, but fear personal exposure.
2. Eliminate the right for authorised officers under the Act to enter private property without a police warrant. This exceeds the powers granted to police involved in entering, and searching property for the purpose of investigating an alleged offence.
3. Provide specific definitions of "authorised officers". Given their very extensive powers and rights to enter,

search, question and otherwise investigate, it is extremely important that there be some qualifications required for these people.

4. Eliminate those sections of the Act that effectively remove the right of workers under investigation to not incriminate themselves. The Act currently requires an employee to answer all questions and provide whatever other evidence is demanded, without any protection from the right to self incriminate. Moreover, any self incriminating evidence which is accrued in this way is then specifically permitted by the Act to be used in subsequent civil and criminal proceedings against that person.
5. Remove penalties which can be levied against a person who fails to answer questions or produce documents which may be self incriminating.
6. Specify access to legal or other representation for those people being interviewed, searched or investigated.
7. Specify processes for accountability by 'authorised officers' and rights of appeal for workers under investigation.

Recommendation: While the intent of the motion is recognised, Conference notes with concern that this, as written, could affect right of entry for unions.

10. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION

Racial Discrimination Act

Freedom from being vilified on the grounds of race, colour or national or ethnic origin is one of the most important freedoms that we have in this country. Since 1995, when section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act became Australian Law, the provision has embodied Australia's condemnation of racial vilification, and protected our society from the poisonous effects of hate speech.

Race hatred laws have served to provide an expression of our tenets as a multicultural society that values racial tolerance and social cohesion.

The safeguards provided by the Racial Discrimination Act have been in place for almost 20 years, including during the 11 years of the Howard government, giving targets of hate speech a peaceful and legal avenue of redress. These laws have helped to resolve hundreds of cases that would otherwise have been left to fester and to degrade social cohesion.

The laws protect all Australians against racial vilification, not only minority groups, and are one of the few inhibitors we possess against the racism which underpins many overseas conflicts.

Advertisement

Changes proposed by the Abbott government send a dangerous signal that hate speech is sanctioned as a form of freedom of speech and that bigotry has a legitimate place in our society.

The proposed changes are opposed by 190 ethnic communities in NSW as well as a range of other organisations, including the NSW and Victorian state governments.

That this Conference recognises that all levels of government have a duty to make racism socially unacceptable and to provide the targets of racism with a legal course of action.

That Labor in opposition will use every means available to urge the Federal Government to withdraw its Exposure Draft of the Freedom of Speech (Repeal of Section 18C) Bill 2014 and will vote in the parliament to oppose the proposed Brandis legislation.

That in the event of the Brandis legislation being passed, Labor in government will urgently legislate to overturn these changes and reinstate the current legislation.

Recommendation: Support.

11. BARTON SEC

In the light of events at the Manus Island detention centre in the last weeks, Conference calls on NSW Labor to develop asylum seeker policy and language that reflects our respect for human rights and dignity.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

12. BATHURST BRANCH

Conference opposes the television advertising of online betting.

Recommendation: Note and refer to National Conference.

13. BEGA SEC

In light of events at the Manus Island detention centre in the last week, Conference calls on the Party to develop asylum seeker policy and language that reflects our respect for human rights and dignity and seeks an end to offshore processing.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

14. BEROWRA FEC

Conference calls on the ALP to uphold decent standards of humanity and compassion in its dealings with refugee and immigration policy.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

15. BEROWRA FEC

Conference calls on the Federal Labor Opposition to withdraw support for offshore processing in Nauru or Papua-New Guinea of refugees seeking asylum in Australia or for the wholesale detention and eventual expulsion of asylum seekers in those centres.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

16. BEROWRA FEC

Conference requests that future ALP Governments not support offshore processing by Australia. (NB: This does not refer to the refugee camps run by the United Nations. Indeed, Labor should support an increased intake of refugees from these camps).

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

17. BEROWRA FEC

Conference calls on the ALP to adopt policies based on fairness, compassion and human rights, not giving in to populist political expediency or 'race to the bottom' arguments in formulating asylum seeker policy.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

18. BEROWRA FEC

Conference urges the ALP to promote a more generous and accommodating view of refugees in policy statements, and asking that Labor leaders demonstrate moral leadership and educate the public about the contribution all refugees can make to Australian community, cultural and economic life.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

19. BEROWRA FEC

Conference condemns the abuse of human rights of asylum seekers in any detention facility run or funded by the Australian Government or its contractors.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

20. BEROWRA FEC

Conference condemns the operational secrecy, the abuse of naval secrecy, removal of journalist access and overall lack of transparency with regard to the processing of asylum seekers by the Abbott Government.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

21. BEROWRA FEC

Conference deplores the violent treatment of asylum seekers on Manus Island by any personnel connected to the detention facility, PNG government bodies or any

civilians on Manus Island.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39

22. BEROWRA FEC

Conference deplores the separation of children from parents or splitting of families in detention and calling upon the ALP Federal Shadow Cabinet to condemn racism and abuse of asylum seekers.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

23. BLACKTOWN SEC

It is an absolute disgrace that paedophile cases are being predominantly (if not exclusively) heard in the local court system which is in effect resulting in lesser sentences being handed to those found guilty due to the limitations placed on the local courts. This Conference calls on the NSW Shadow Attorney General to develop a policy that brings appropriate justice to those found guilty of paedophilia and also examine better ways that will allow higher jurisdictional courts to deal with paedophile cases.

Recommendation: Note. The source of claims in this motion have not been substantiated. NSW Labor supports strong sentences for any person convicted of a child sexual offence.

24. BLACKTOWN SEC

Conference rejects that an aged pensioners' home be considered as part of the assets test by any future Labor Federal Government.

Recommendation: Support.

25. BLACKTOWN SEC

Conference calls upon Federal & State Labor Opposition to examine ways on improving the current standard of living for aged pensioners.

Recommendation: Support.

26. BLUE MOUNTAINS SEC

That the Party's position on asylum seekers be reviewed in the light of Labor's historic commitment to social justice as both the inaugural signatory to and the champion of the UNHCR's International Convention, and that the State Conference develop a policy that better reflects Labor's progressive and enlightened values.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

27. BROKEN HILL BRANCH

That the Refugee Policy in relation to the treatment and administrative processing of those who attempt to enter Australia other than through government-sponsored

immigration programs be thoroughly reviewed to ensure that all these individuals, especially minors, are treated in a more humane and compassionate way.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

28. CASTLE HILL SEC

That Conference endorses the position taken by the Labor Members of the recent NSW Inquiry into Racial Vilification legislation, Peter Primrose MLC and Shaoquett Moselmane MLC, who opposed the weakening of section 18C of the Commonwealth Racial Vilification Act as this would also adversely affect state anti-discrimination legislation.

Recommendation: Support.

29. CARINGBAH BRANCH

Conference calls for laws to be introduced to ensure that if a parliamentarian is convicted of a serious indictable offence, his or her assets are confiscated under the Proceeds of Crimes Act. If current laws do not allow this to occur then necessary changes should be introduced to ensure this can happen.

Recommendation: Support in principle and note that NSW Labor believes that any public official who gains financially from corrupt conduct should be subject to proceed of crime actions.

30. CESSNOCK BRANCH

Conference opposes all forms of mandatory sentencing. Conference calls for the NSW Labor Policy Platform to be amended to reflect this.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

31. DOONSIDE BRANCH

It is an absolute disgrace that paedophile cases are being predominantly (if not exclusively) heard in the local court system which is in effect resulting in lesser sentences being handed to those found guilty due to the limitations placed on the local courts. This conference calls on the NSW Shadow Attorney General to develop a policy that brings appropriate justice to those found guilty of paedophilia and also examine better ways that will allow higher jurisdictional courts to deal with paedophile cases.

Recommendation: Note. The source of claims in this motion have not been substantiated. NSW Labor supports strong sentences for any person convicted of a child sexual offence.

32. DOONSIDE BRANCH

Conference rejects that an aged pensioners' home be considered as part of the assets test by any future Labor

Federal Government.

Recommendation: Support.

33. DOONSIDE BRANCH

Conference calls upon Federal & State Labor Opposition to examine ways on improving the current standard of living for aged pensioners.

Recommendation: Support.

34. DOUBLE BAY BELLEVUE HILL BRANCH

Conference calls on the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party to review its asylum seeker policy.

To date, Australia has been treating asylum seekers as if we are the only country facing this issue. People do not decide to make the dangerous journey to Australia by sea lightly. It is a decision made because it is considered their best chance of survival.

The alternative to increasingly harsh and ineffective deterrents is for Australia to start negotiations with our neighbours. These negotiations should focus on developing a regional system that strengthens protection for refugees along the route they take from their homeland to their destination.

The main objective of this system would be to provide access to safe, secure shelter and healthcare and the opportunity to pursue their own livelihoods upon their arrival.

Any policy also needs to include the recommendations of the Houston Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers "to give greater hope and confidence to asylum seekers that regional arrangements will work more effectively." When alternative protection arrangements are available in transit countries, people will have less incentive to risk a dangerous sea journey.

Using a collaborative approach, a regional agreement would include:

- An effective reception and registration system for displaced people in the region, which could eventually lead to a common asylum and screening process irrespective of where a person is living.
- A category of legal status and a space where displaced people can live while their claims are being processed. Where displaced people feel safe they are much less likely to move again potential to provide broader economic and social service benefits for displaced people and their host communities;
- Resettlement and return of non-refugees;
- Addressing the question of people smuggling.

Establishing a formal partnership with other countries

under the auspices of the Bali Process will create a less politicised environment in which to explore these options.

Australia could also develop plans for orderly departure from source countries such as Afghanistan and Sri Lanka and look at creating special programs that would complement the refugee resettlement program.

We urge Labor to take refugee policy in a new direction that effectively distinguishes it from that of the Coalition Government and recognises our obligations under international law.

Recommendation: *That the motion be noted and that NSW Labor express its support for policy positions advocated by the federal Labor Opposition and found in Labor's National Platform.*

35. DOUBLE BAY BELLEVUE HILL BRANCH

Conference condemns in the strongest possible terms the Silence As Evidence Act 2013 that was passed by the State Parliament under the NSW Liberal Government.

This law effectively reverses the fundamental principle of a right to silence in order to avoid inadvertent self-incrimination.

We urge the State Parliamentary Labor Party to incorporate as policy a commitment to reverse this Act when in Government.

Recommendation: *Support.*

36. EAST MAITLAND BRANCH

Conference strongly condemns the Abbott Government's handling of Asylum Seekers. Further, Conference asks the ALP to amend its position on Asylum Seekers to include a more humane approach to the treatment of those detained off-shore awaiting verification of their status. The ALP is a party which has always stood for the rights of those who are abused and underprivileged.

Recommendation: *Refer to Item 39.*

37. EDEN MONARO FEC

Conference notes that NSW Labor has instituted new standards for the selection of candidates that seek to avoid the conflicts of interest or corrupt behaviour that have tainted both sides of politics.

Conference notes that unlike the NSW Liberals, NSW Labor has implemented enhanced mechanisms that require a higher than minimum standard of compliance for Labor Party representatives and officials with regard to entitlements and use of public office.

Conference believes these standards should be adopted at the Federal and State level.

Recommendation: *Support.*

38. ENMORE/CAMDENVILLE BRANCH

That NSW and Federal Labor have positive stories to tell about action to address the rising cost of elections from past reforms. That the Enmore-Camdenville Branch believes that NSW and Federal Labor should consider options for revisiting campaign finance given the NSW Liberal Premier's (Mike Baird) support for full public funding of elections.

Recommendation: *Support.*

39. FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY LABOR PARTY

Conference observes that:

1. All asylum seekers should be afforded safe, dignified and humane conditions while awaiting refugee status determinations;
2. Claims for asylum must be processed in a timely manner to avoid asylum seekers being left in a state of uncertainty and fear. This has been one of the great failings of the Abbott Government;
3. The Abbott Government should strive to ensure its obligations for the wellbeing and safety of all persons at the Manus Island and Nauru Detention Facilities are subject to independent oversight; and
4. The Abbott Government should ensure that detention facilities provide safe, dignified and humane conditions for asylum seekers in accordance with obligations under the Refugee Convention and in accordance with relevant human rights standards.

Recommendation: *Support.*

40. GLEBE BRANCH

Preamble

The NSW ALP welcomes the decision of the 2011 National Conference to amend Labor's platform to support marriage equality for all couples irrespective of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status. However, the same National Conference also resolved that members of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party should not be bound to support this position. This 'conscience vote' allowed a significant minority of ALP Members of Parliament to vote against the legal equality of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) Australians when marriage equality was voted on in September 2012, undermining any prospect of it passing. The ongoing conscience vote granted to Federal ALP MPs on this issue will continue to undermine future efforts to secure the passage of marriage equality through federal parliament.

Resolution

The 2014 NSW State Labor Conference calls on all

delegates elected to the 2014 National Conference to support a binding position in favour of marriage equality for Federal Labor MPs.

Recommendation: Reject

41. HORNSBY BRANCH

Conference believes that refugees seeking asylum are entitled to be treated humanely and justly, in accordance with United Nations conventions on refugees and human rights. It is not illegal to seek asylum. A nation's ability and willingness to appropriately welcome and efficiently process refugees is a measure of its standing as a nation.

Conference calls upon the ALP at all levels to uphold decent standards of humanity and compassion in its dealings with refugees and immigration policy.

Conference calls upon the Federal Labor Opposition to withdraw support for offshore processing in Nauru or Papua-New Guinea of refugees seeking asylum in Australia, and for the wholesale detention and eventual expulsion of asylum seekers in those centres.

Conference requests that future ALP Governments not support off-shore processing by Australia. (NB: This does not refer to the refugee camps run by the United Nations. Indeed, Labor should support an increased intake of refugees from these camps).

The ALP should be adopting policies based on fairness, compassion and human rights, not giving in to populist political expediency, or 'the race to the bottom'.

Whilst recognising the dangers of travelling by boats organised by people smugglers, the Conference welcomes genuine refugees to Australia, no matter how they arrive.

Conference urges the ALP to promote a more generous and accommodating view of refugees in policy statements, and asks that Labor leaders demonstrate moral leadership and educate the public about the contribution all refugees can make to Australian community, cultural and economic life.

Further, Conference:

- Condemns the abuse of human rights of asylum seekers in any detention facility run by or funded by Australian government or its contractors.
- Condemns the operational secrecy, the abuse of naval secrecy, removal of journalist access and overall lack of transparency with regard to the processing of asylum seekers by the Abbott Government.
- Deplores the violent treatment of asylum seekers on Manus Island by any personnel connected to the detention facility, PNG government bodies or any civilians on Manus Island.

- Deplores the separation of children from parents or splitting of families in detention.
- Calls upon the ALP Federal Shadow Cabinet to condemn racism and abuse of asylum seekers.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

42. JERVIS BAY ST GEORGES BASIN BRANCH

Conference notes the latest developments at the Manus Island Asylum Detention Centre and the fact that Australia is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on Asylum Seekers. Conference calls on the Australian Labor Party to change the current policy of offshore processing to one of onshore processing.

Whilst we have no doubt that the current policy was formulated in good faith in that it was an attempt to foil the refugee smugglers and to save lives, the history of this policy shows that it is an absolute failure in doing either.

To be tied to practically the same policy in this matter as the LNP Coalition, brands us as uncaring, selfish and catering to the rednecks in our society.

The Labor movement in Australia generally has in the past had a world wide reputation as being one of compassion and sharing our good fortune, even though many of our forebears did not necessarily treat the original inhabitants well.

In adopting this policy, we will show that we have pride in our struggle to protect the less fortunate and everyone will be able to see what is occurring in our name.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

43. KATOOMBA BRANCH

Conference urges the Party to consider proposals to reform the Legislative Council, to ensure the following:

1. The Council is to be a house of review;
2. The State is to be divided into a number of divisions (of equal number of electors) where each division is comprised of an equal number of Legislative Assembly seats;
3. Each division returns two or more members elected on a proportional optional preferential voting basis (that is, an elector could vote above or below 'the line' for as many groups or candidates as the elector decides);
4. To be elected, a candidate would have to receive at least 5 per cent of the formal votes cast for the division or be a part of a group of candidates which reached that threshold;
5. The total number of MLCs are to be no more than half the number of MLAs;

6. By way of illustration:

- (a) If the number of Assembly electorates were increased to 96, there could be 12 Council divisions (each covering 8 Assembly electorates) each returning 4 members;
- (b) If the number of Assembly electorates were reduced to 90, there could be 15 Council divisions (each covering 6 Assembly electorates) each returning 3 members;
- (c) The term of each elected member to be similar to members of the Legislative Assembly (that is there would be an election for every position in the Council every 4 years, at the same time as for the Assembly);
- (d) Preselection for candidates for each division to be by the members of the Party residing in that division.

Recommendation: Note. Refer to SPLP for consideration through a Parliamentary Inquiry into Parliamentary and Electoral Reform.

44. KATOOMBA BRANCH

Conference would like to express great regret and strong opposition to the Silence As Evidence Act 2013 (NSW) that was passed by the State Parliament under Barry O'Farrell's (now Mike Baird's) government.

This law effectively reverses the fundamental principle of a right to silence in order to avoid inadvertent self-incrimination.

We urge the Parliamentary Party to incorporate as policy a pledge to reverse this Act when in government.

Recommendation: Support.

45. KATOOMBA BRANCH

Conference requests the Labor in Opposition to take an opportunity to review asylum seeker policy.

To date, Australia has been treating asylum seekers as if they are unique to Australia. The dangerous journey by sea to our country is undertaken by people who have weighed this as being their best option for survival.

The alternative to increasingly harsh and ineffective deterrents is for Australia to start negotiations with our neighbours for development of a regional system that strengthens protection for refugees along the route they take from their homeland to their destination.

The main purpose of this system would be to provide access to safe, secure shelter and healthcare along the way and the opportunity to pursue their own livelihoods upon their arrival. Australian policy needs to include the recommendations of the Houston Expert Panel on

Asylum Seekers 'to give greater hope and confidence to asylum seekers that regional arrangements will work more effectively'. When alternative protection arrangements are available in transit countries, people will have less incentive to risk a dangerous sea journey.

Using a collaborative approach, a regional agreement would include:

- an effective reception and registration system for displaced people in the region which could eventually lead to a common asylum and screening process irrespective of where a person is living;
- a category of legal status and a space where displaced people can live while their claims are being processed. Where displaced people feel safe they are much less likely to move again;
- potential to provide broader economic and social service benefits for displaced people and their host communities;
- resettlement and return of non-refugees;
- addressing the question of people smuggling.

Establishing a formal partnership of governments and civil society under the auspices of the Bali Process could well create a less politicized environment in which to explore these options.

Australia could also develop plans for orderly departure from source countries such as Afghanistan and Sri Lanka and look at creating special programs that would complement the refugee resettlement program.

We urge Labor to take refugee policy in a new direction that effectively distinguishes it from that of the Coalition Government and recognises our obligations under international law.

We also urge Labor to shift the responsibility for this policy area to the Foreign Affairs portfolio.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

46. KU RING GAI BRANCH

Conference supports the onshore processing of asylum seekers and requests that future ALP Governments do not support offshore processing.

Increasing our refugee intake and increasing the processing time for refugees is the most affordable option for this country. Reducing time in the limbo of detention is essential to prevent mental harm and alienation from working life.

Whilst recognising the dangers of travelling by boats organised by people smugglers, Conference calls on future Labor Governments to welcome genuine refugees to Australia, no matter how they arrive.

Conference condemns the mistreatment and abuse of

asylum seekers in any detention facility run by or funded by the Australian Government or its contractors.

Conference condemns the operational secrecy, the abuse of naval secrecy, removal of journalist access and overall lack of transparency with regard to the handling of administration of Immigration matters by the Abbott Government.

Conference deplores the violent treatment of asylum seekers on Manus Island by any personnel connected to the detention facility or any civilians on Manus.

Conference deplores the separation of children from parents or splitting of families in detention. Conference condemns offshore processing of women and children asylum seekers.

Conference calls for an end to dangerous naval tow backs.

Conference calls upon the ALP Federal Shadow Cabinet to condemn racism and abuse of asylum seekers.

Conference urges a more generous and accommodating view of refugees promoted within the ALP and in policy statements. The voting population should be led, not followed.

Conference asks that Labor leaders demonstrate moral leadership and educate the public about the contribution all refugees can make to Australian community, cultural and economic life.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

47. LAMBTON, NEW LAMBTON & KOTARA BRANCH

Media and journalist standards:

According to the independent Finklestein Media Review, a meta-analysis of 21 surveys on the media, found public confidence in the quality and integrity of Australian news media to be at an all-time low. Notably, the ABC confidently ranked as a trusted source of news by between two-thirds and four fifths of all respondents whereas the vast majority of private broadcasters and publishers struggled to be ranked as even somewhat trustworthy by half of those surveyed. The Finklestein recommendations entail the creation of an independent, publically funded News Media Council comprised of 50% members of the public and 50% journalists to oversee and self-regulate journalist standards according to factuality, bias, and to a lesser extent public interest.

NSW policy must be to support the recommendations of the Finklestein Review because editorial independence and unbiased reporting is central to a democratic society that upholds free speech. It condemns false characterisations by stakeholders a 'News Media Council' would constitute direct government control of the media

through licencing.

Recommendation: Support in principle and refer to National Conference.

48. LAMBTON, NEW LAMBTON & KOTARA BRANCH

Refugees

National Secretariat to remind the Labor Party that the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees to which Australia is a signatory does not contain a policy of Offshore Processing.

"Under the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention, Australia is bound to care for all refugees who present themselves to Australian Authorities claiming asylum from persecution. The duty of care remains when the Australian Government transports refugees to centres in neighbouring countries.

"Australia is responsible for managing the riots on Manus Island which resulted in the death of an Iranian refugee.

"There is no way that Australia can fulfil its UN Treaty obligations when it follows the policy of offshore processing".

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

49. LAMBTON, NEW LAMBTON & KOTARA BRANCH

Regional Dialogue on Refugees:

The Australian Labor Party develops a Refugee Policy that will increase dialogue with Australia's regional neighbours. The aims of the regional dialogue to be:

- Developing a humane processing system, and
- Seeking appropriate re-settlement of Asylum seekers under the UN Convention.
- That an Independent body be created to oversight and de-politicise the Asylum/refugee issue.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

50. LANE COVE BRANCH

Conference requests the support of the Shadow Attorney General and Shadow Minister responsible for ABS in seeking to change the present law pertaining to ABS employment so that employees who resign their ABS employment to contest a federal election enjoy the same rights as all other APS employees to return to their position in the event they are not elected.

Recommendation: Amend "ABS" to "APS" and support.

51. LITHGOW BRANCH

In light of events at the Manus Island detention centre, Conference calls on the Party to develop asylum seeker policy and language that reflects our respect for human rights and dignity.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

52. MACQUARIE FEC

That the policy of locking asylum seekers coming by boat on Manus and Nauru Island, and the policy adopted in the dying days of the Rudd Government be abandoned with an admission of "we got it wrong" and to lead a campaign to inform the Australian people of the facts about asylum seekers.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

53. MACQUARIE FEC

That Conference expresses its concern regarding the recent distress and violence at the Manus Island refugee holding centre. Conference urges the Federal ALP to be as vociferous as possible regarding the respectful treatment of asylum seekers in detention centres. Further, Conference asks the Federal ALP to examine its current policy regarding asylum seekers so that members can be assured that our policy position upholds rights described under the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

54. MACQUARIE FEC

That Conference supports Amnesty International Australia's seventy (70) recommendations to improve the cruel, humiliating and dangerous conditions on Manus Island.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

55. MACQUARIE FEC

Conference thanks Bill Shorten for his acknowledgment of the error of the ALP policy that moved single parents onto Newstart. We look forward to an asylum seeker policy, and language, that reflects our respect for human rights and dignity and our understanding of our obligations under international treaties to which we are a signatory.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

56. MACQUARIE FEC

In light of events at the Manus Island detention centre, Conference calls on the party to develop asylum seeker policy and language that reflects our respect for human rights and dignity.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

57. MACQUARIE FEC

Conference calls upon State Conference to review its position on asylum seekers in the light of Labor's historic commitment to social justice as both the inaugural signatory to and the champion of the UNHCR's International Convention, and that the State Conference develop a policy that better reflects Labor's progressive and enlightened values.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

58. MAYFIELD FEC

Conference does not support the former Labor Government's implementation of its inhumane offshore processing of asylum seekers.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

59. MAYFIELD FEC

Conference opposes the offshore processing of asylum seekers.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

60. MAYFIELD FEC

Conference congratulates all concerned with the National Disability Insurance Scheme and looks forward to the results of the pending trial.

Recommendation: Support.

61. NEWCASTLE FEC

Conference does not support the implementation of offshore processing of asylum seekers, which is inhumane. Conference notes that regardless of the personal views of elected members of the Labor Party that they should be required to uphold Caucus decisions such as this one.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

62. NEWTOWN SEC

Conference condemns the NSW State Opposition for their support of the Government's legislation introducing mandatory sentencing laws.

Further, Conference call on the NSW State Opposition to monitor and publicise any instances of injustice arising from these laws.

Recommendation: Reject and note that this motion is factually incorrect.

63. PADDINGTON FEC

Conference calls on the National Executive to commission an independent review of the conditions endured by asylum seekers on Nauru and Manus Island to ensure that

minimum standards of care are being upheld.

Conference does not have confidence that the Department of Immigration is sufficiently objective and accountable in this regard. Given that the re-introduction of the Pacific Solution was a significant departure from ALP policy, Conference believes it is incumbent upon the National Executive to commission and conduct this review on behalf of Party members.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

64. PENRITH NORTH BRANCH

Conference calls on legislation to be enacted to require businesses without facilities for people with a disability to publically disclose this. The disclosure should state that the establishment "does not have facilities for access by people with a disability."

Recommendation: Note that NSW Labor supports improving access to businesses and services and calls on relevant Shadow Ministers to develop policies to achieve this objective.

65. PORT MACQUARIE SEC

That this State Conference support the establishment of a Federal ICAC.

Recommendation: Support in principle and refer to National Conference.

66. PORT STEPHENS SEC

Conference calls for the ALP to review its policies on the residential options available for people with disabilities, with particular attention paid to the bipartisan policy to close residential care facilities in NSW, in recognition of the vital role they currently play in the care of people with chronic and complex physical and intellectual disabilities; and in recognition of the expertise of the staff working at the facilities who, with additional resources, could provide training for workers of the future in the disability sector. We support keeping the facilities open to enable people with disabilities a great choice, consistent with the NDIS principles. Further, that the ALP adopt this new policy standpoint so as to stand in solidarity with and to give a voice to those who don't have a voice, and who reply on this party to give them a strong voice against reckless moves by the Liberal Party.

Recommendation: Support.

67. PORT STEPHENS SEC

Conference strongly condemns the Abbott Government's handling of Asylum Seekers. Further, Conference asks the ALP to revise its position on Asylum Seekers, so as to allow voters, and those fleeing persecution, a means by which to access the morally correct political policies of the

party which stands up for the rights of those who abused, underprivileged and requiring the large hearts of those who reside in this country.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

68. REVESBY BRANCH

The Manus Island processing centre that presently holds asylum seekers who either entered or have tried to enter Australia without a refugee or humanitarian visa should be closed.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

69. REVESBY BRANCH

Those asylum seekers presently on Manus Island should be transferred to detention centres on the Australian mainland or on Christmas Island and have their refugee claims assessed in a timely manner.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

70. REVESBY BRANCH

Future asylum seekers, either IMAs or non-IMAs should be transferred only to detention centres on the Australian mainland or on Christmas Island and have their refugee claims assessed in a timely manner.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

71. ROBERTSON FEC

Conference calls for the cessation of all offshore processing of asylum seekers, in particular at Manus Island and Nauru detention centres (or any alternatives).

The ALP should advocate a regional approach to asylum seeker processing based on a fully developed humanitarian solution consistent with the principles of the UN refugee convention and the universal declaration of human rights.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

72. SHOP DISTRIBUTIVE AND ALLIED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (NSW BRANCH)

This Conference acknowledges the decision of ALP National Conference that marriage is a matter of conscience and that the union of a man and woman in marriage has been recognised throughout the centuries in all societies and remains a valid belief for many in the ALP to espouse and hold.

Recommendation: Support.

73. SWANSEA SEC

Conference expresses its strong opposition to the NSW Government's plan to impose mandatory minimum jail terms for alcohol and drug fuelled violence as a "knee-jerk" response that will discourage guilty pleas and cause problems in the courts.

Conference considers it to be a fundamental feature of parliamentary democracy that there be a separation of powers. In particular, the judiciary must remain unconstrained by the petty politicking, which is driven by uninformed comment, often whipped up by those with axes to grind. Of course, the death of innocent bystanders due to such violence is to be deplored but nothing is gained, and much is lost, by draconian laws which limit the discretion of judges.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

74. SYDNEY SEC

That the NSW ALP extend the application of the NSW Anti-discrimination Act to students, potential students and teachers of private educational authorities in NSW.

Recommendation: Reject.

75. SYDNEY SEC

That the NSW ALP oppose mandatory minimum sentencing in NSW.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

76. THE HILLS BRANCH

Conference believes that the Federal Parliament of Australia has lost its moral compass with regard to asylum seekers. We call on the Federal Parliament to reach a humane and bipartisan agreement for the processing of asylum seekers, which should reflect the humanitarian and tolerant values of the Australian people.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

77. THE WARREN BRANCH

Conference proudly supports the NDIS, however is concerned about the implementation of the NDIS in NSW. The implementation of the NDIS will see the public sector vacating the field as a provider of disability and home care services, and the NDIS implementation will also be the largest privatisation in NSW history with 14,000 public sector workers being forcibly transferred to new private sector employers.

Conference calls on NSW Labor to commit to retaining a role for public sector service provisions in the NDIS and for protecting the rights and entitlements of disability and home care workers.

Recommendation: Support.

78. THE TREVOR DAVIES BRANCH

Conference condemns attempts to resettle refugees in developing nations. In particular we condemn the proposal of the current government to resettle refugees in Cambodia. Cambodia is a particularly bad choice for resettlement given that:

- the Cambodian Government is struggling to meet the needs of its population,
- the Cambodian Government is effectively a dictatorship,
- the Cambodian Government has at best a very poor human rights record,
- the Cambodian Government is regularly rating as one of the 3 most corrupt regimes in the world,
- the Cambodian Government's treatment of refugees is harsh and includes returning refugees to their countries of origin to face the very treatments that caused them to become refugees,
- the widespread racial problems which exist in Cambodia, particularly between Cambodians and Vietnamese,
- current tensions in Cambodia, resulting from failed elections and labour rights violations, have resulted in deaths of peaceful protesters and leave the country on the brink of return to civil war,
- serious and significant concerns exist that such a proposal effectively becomes 'aid for refugees' even if there is no direct tie as it is difficult for any government reliant on aid to say no to a suggestion from a donor nation.

Conference calls on the FPLP to oppose the Cambodian proposals and to highlight the problems with such a resettlement plan. Further we also take this opportunity to call on the Federal Parliamentary ALP to actively oppose attempts to resettle refugees in any developing nation.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

79. TOONGABBIE BRANCH

Conference calls upon the ALP to support a Federal judicial enquiry into the treatment and prospects of asylum seekers in detention on Manus Island and Nauru, on the high seas and Australian waters and in Australian Detention centres such as Christmas Island and Darwin."

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39

80. TOONGABBIE BRANCH

Conference, due to the high level of informal votes in the recent Federal Election, calls upon the ALP to advocate

the use of a consistent method of marking ballot papers in elections for all levels of government.

Recommendation: Support.

81. TUMBI UMBI BRANCH

That the criteria for pre-polling be strengthened to make it obvious what its purpose is, as a way of making voting more accessible for those who may have physical or other difficulties in going to vote on Polling Day.

Recommendation: Amend to read: NSW Labor strongly supports broad access to pre-poll voting. NSW Labor also supports any initiatives which make it easier for people with a disability to cast their vote.

82. TUMBI UMBI BRANCH

That Conference upholds the freedom of association of Party members with anyone, and in particular with respect to local members of parliament and councillors.

Recommendation: Note and seek clarification regarding intent of motion.

83. TUMBI UMBI BRANCH

Conference commends the former Federal Labor Government on its proposal to introduce set top boxes to assist hearing and visually impaired people to access digital television.

Recommendation: Support.

84. TUMBI UMBI BRANCH

We support the fair and dignified treatment of Asylum Seekers and Refugees. We believe this treatment should be in strict adherence to our commitments under the UN Declaration of Human Rights and the Refugee Convention. We also condemn the use of the term 'boat people' and associated terms.

Furthermore, Conference calls on the Federal Opposition to take a stand against offshore processing for refugees, and to develop more humane policies in regard to refugees.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

85. UNITED SERVICES UNION

The United Services Union calls on the next NSW Labor Government to recognise the role played by many women as carers, and calls for greater support and recognition for carers throughout the community.

Recommendation: Support.

86. UNITED VOICE

NSW Home Care Service

The NSW Government confirmed in late 2013 the closure all Ageing, Disabilities and Home Care services by 2018, including the NSW Home Care Service and the Aboriginal Home Care Service.

More than 4,000 quality care workers and thousands of office staff will be outsourced and thousands of aged and disabled clients will be left without a guarantee of quality care.

These workers perform high level care for regular clients on high care packages as well as domestic assistance for those on low care packages. Clients range from severely disabled to very old and frail. These workers provide regular, high-quality care, which is often very personal and related to client health.

There is universal acceptance that quality home care enables clients to live independently in their own homes. The most vulnerable in our community deserve a real choice in who provides their care.

The aged care sector is growing rapidly as our population ages and community care is the vast majority of services provided. 25 per cent of Australians aged 65 or over live at home and access some level of home support or home care. Only 5 per cent of Australians over 65 years live in residential aged care.

Federal and State Governments have been planning for a huge increase in the number of home care packages over coming decades. A well-trained and dedicated public sector workforce in ADHC could continue high quality and cost-effective care if properly funded in New South Wales.

Action

This conference condemns the NSW Government for its privatisation-by-stealth approach to managing the NSW Home Care Service until the stated closure date of 2018.

This Conference calls on the NSW Government to guarantee equivalent or better conditions for existing employees in ADHC through the transition to the non government sector and for a period of at least 5 years thereafter.

Further that this Conference calls on the NSW Government to commit to facilitating the development of a genuinely high quality home care sector through a quality training framework, standards on pay and conditions, and the maximum retention of existing ADHC employed home care workers.

Recommendation: Support.

87. VALENTINE BRANCH

Conference calls for reform of the NSW Legislative Council to be added to the NSW Labor platform. The

NSW Legislative Council is not functioning as a house of review and groups like the Shooters Party have a disproportionate influence on law and policy than their level of support in the community. We call on a Labor government to reform the NSW Legislative Council including:

- a. The quota for election to the Legislative Council to be adjusted to reflect the primary votes rather than preference flows.
- b. The method of election including regional electorates along the lines of the Victorian and WA Upper House.
- c. The term of NSW Legislative Council Members be four years in alignment with the terms of the Legislative Assembly.

Recommendation: Refer to SPLP for consideration through a Parliamentary Inquiry into Parliamentary and Electoral Reform.

88. WALLSEND BRANCH

Conference asks that the ALP proudly support the NDIS however the branch is concerned about the implementation of the NDIS in NSW. The implementation of the NDIS will see the public sector vacating the field as a provider of disability and home care services and the NDIS implementation will also be the largest privatisation in NSW history with 14 000 public sector workers being forcibly transferred to new private sector employers.

Conference calls on the ALP to support public sector employees working in the disability sector.

Recommendation: Support and note that NSW Labor supports both the NDIS and a continuing role for the public sector in the provision of services to people with a disability.

89. WENTWORTH FEC

Conference requests Labor in Opposition to take the opportunity to review asylum seeker policy.

Conference calls on the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party to treat refugees with dignity and humanity. The Party should implement its National Conference policy and comply with Australia's International Obligations under the Refugee Convention and other human rights Conventions, to which Australia is a signatory.

Recommendation: Refer to Item 39.

90. YOUNG LABOR

Labor opposes Abbott's destruction of the Welfare State

Tony Abbott's 2014 budget is the biggest attack on this country's most vulnerable in its recorded history.

It is literally impossible to overstate the impact of this

budget's cuts. Abbott's sick tax will literally lead to people dying because they put off or cannot afford to go to the doctor.

His fee deregulation will leave students struggling under the weight of hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt, on which they will now pay commercial rates of interests from the moment they earn the minimum wage - in other words, preventing millions of low SES students from ever going to university, and condemning even middle-class students to carry their debts to the grave.

His welfare reforms - that prevent an unemployed person from accessing benefits for six months, and then cut them off after another six - literally use the threat of starvation to coerce people into jobs that simply don't exist. Yet rather than creating jobs for Australians seeking work, this budget cuts 16,500 jobs from the public service.

Where has this money gone?

To welfare for the super-rich in the form of extending Family Tax Benefits to those earning \$100,000.

To the purchase of jet fighters for use against an enemy that does not exist.

To continuing tax exemptions for negative gearing and the superannuation of the super-wealthy, that allows a select few to continue their privileged lifestyles at the expense of ordinary working people.

NSW Labor opposes the Liberals' destruction of the welfare state. NSW Labor extends its solidarity to the ACTU in any industrial campaign it takes in response to the Liberals' attempts to destroy the welfare state.

NSW Labor encourages the ACTU and other sympathetic trade unions and community organisations to draw on their lessons and success of the "Your Rights At Work" and facilitate in the development of a broad based coalition campaign in support of a strong and extensive welfare state.

Recommendation: Amend to read: NSW Labor condemns the Abbott Government's 2014-15 Budget and the harmful effects that it will have. NSW Labor resolves to work with community groups and the trade union movement to oppose the Abbott Government's policies, particularly those policies which will impede ordinary Australians' access to healthcare, education and other social services.

COUNTRY LABOR REPORT

Since the Annual Conference met in 2012, Country Labor has been busy campaigning, organising and recruiting across rural and regional NSW – contesting Local Government elections around the state, the Northern Tablelands by-election and the 2013 Federal Election. Preparations are now well underway for the 2015 NSW Election, including the Country Labor Conference, which will be held in Queanbeyan from Friday 24 – Sunday 26 October 2014.

Country Labor has used these election campaigns as an opportunity to campaign right around NSW – not just winning votes, but also identifying supporters and recruiting new members. More importantly, Country Labor has also campaigned between elections, holding street stalls, making phone calls and gathering signatures on petitions: raising awareness on the education cuts announced by the NSW Liberal-National Government, and on a range of other local issues. Steve Whan MLC tabled hundreds of signatures in the NSW Parliament, where the Nationals refused to reverse the cuts to local schools and jobs – even after they discovered the ‘lost’ billion dollars in the 2012 NSW budget. The Goulburn Branch alone gathered over 700 signatures on a petition against the education cuts. The Port Macquarie Country Labor branch also has a long history of advocating for their local community. When the local Port Macquarie bus company, Busways, started a new bus route leaving aged pensioners to walk up to 30 minutes to get to the CBD, the Port Macquarie Branch gathered over 3,500 signatures on their petition, gaining considerable local media coverage as well.

Country Organiser, Courtney Roche has been on maternity leave from January 2014. Both the Administrative Committee and the Country Labor Committee endorsed Josephine Hillard to act as Country Organiser in Courtney's absence. Country Labor would like to thank Josephine for all of her hard work and dedication while she has been Acting Country Organiser.

Local Government Elections 2012

The Local Government elections in 2012 had many great results for Country Labor. Jenny Dowell was re-elected Mayor of Lismore with more than 53% of the primary vote. Bob Pynsent won back the Mayoralty of Cessnock for Country Labor, fighting off 9 other candidates. In Broken Hill Council, Labor increased its representation to 4 Labor councillors. In Queanbeyan, Maitland and Lithgow, Country Labor ran a strong campaign with a new generation of candidates and maintained the Country Labor representation on each council. In Wingecarribee and Great Lakes the Country Labor Councillors were re-elected.

As part of a broader strategy, aimed at building the local credibility of Country Labor and reconnecting with local communities, Country Labor endorsed candidates in a number of Local Government areas where it hadn't previously either endorsed or run candidates. In Albury, Palerang and Tweed councils, Country Labor picked up a Councillor in all three.

In Wagga Wagga, Ballina, Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie, we narrowly lost (in Port Macquarie by just one vote), but the locals ran strong campaigns, building Country Labor's local credibility, and ensuring there is a strong foundation for the next Local Government elections in 2016.

A number of other Country Labor members were also elected without Party endorsement around NSW.

Northern Tablelands By-Election

In the midst of the Federal Election campaign in 2013, the sudden resignation of Federal National Party candidate Richard Torbay forced a by-election in the Northern Tablelands, which was held on 25 May 2013. In the past, NSW Labor has shied away from endorsing candidates in many by-elections. However, John Robertson, NSW Labor Leader has strongly advocated running Country Labor candidates in all circumstances. Herman Beyersdorf, Deputy Mayor and professor at the University of New England ran a strong, grassroots campaign focused on the Liberal-National Government's cuts to hospitals and community health services, local public service jobs and cuts to the Department of Primary Industries. As a result, Country Labor was able to increase the Labor vote by nearly 7%, despite being hugely outspent by the National Party.

NSW Labor Leader John Robertson and Shadow Cabinet members were strongly supportive of the campaign, with Country Labor MLCs Steve Whan and Mick Veitch spending a significant amount of time in the electorate over the four week campaign.

Thank you to the many volunteers, who assisted both on the day and over the entire campaign, especially to Young Labor and all other members who travelled to help out on Election Day.

Federal Election 2013

Country Labor fielded a strong and diverse range of candidates in the Federal Election in 2013 who held their local National and Liberal candidates to account. Country Labor candidates campaigned hard on the achievements of the Federal Labor

Government:

- Building the National Broadband Network, delivering affordable, high-speed internet access to all Australians, no matter where they live;
- Investing in road infrastructure around NSW (which the previous Coalition government neglected for 11 years) – the \$1.7 billion Hunter Expressway, the duplication of the Pacific Highway, and building Bega By-pass.
- Since 2007 Federal Labor has doubled funding to schools, upgrading every local school to ensure all children have access to the best education right across Australia.
- Investing over \$1 billion in new funding for hospitals, and a new, sustainable funding model to cope with future growth.

Local campaigns trialled and innovated utilising a range of campaigning techniques, many of them focused on maximising the precious time of both candidates and their campaign teams. These included more targeted direct voter contact both on the phone and on the doorstep; more targeted use of social media, including advertising; and highly localised campaigning on specific issues.

Country Labor would like to thank all of the fantastic candidates across NSW. In an election that was always going to be tough Country Labor candidates and their campaign teams did an excellent job. As a result of their efforts, the swing against Labor in NSW was well below the national average.

Congratulations to Justine Elliot and Joel Fitzgibbon who held onto their seats despite big-spending Nationals campaigns against them. Country Labor sincerely thanks Mike Kelly, Janelle Saffin and Ursula Stephens who have been fantastic and hardworking representatives for their local communities.

Country Labor Committee

Throughout 2013, the Country Labor Committee maintained its focus on local election campaigning, with all of the Committee members playing crucial roles in their local campaign teams. The Country Labor Committee held their face-to-face meeting at Trades Hall in Sydney on Friday 22 November 2013.

The agenda for the day encompassed a broad range of issues and allowed the Committee to both reflect on the last 12 months, and also plan for 2014 and beyond. The Committee was welcomed by Jamie Clements, General Secretary before a detailed debrief on the Federal Election, which included a presentation from Kaila Murnain, Assistant General Secretary on the results and lessons from the central NSW campaign. Courtney Roche, Country Organiser outlined the Country Labor State Election strategy, including Country Labor's key targets and also areas in which Country Labor will need to build beyond 2015. The Committee endorsed the strategy unanimously. This is the first time that the Committee has taken such a strategic approach over several election campaigns.

The Country Labor Committee also unanimously recommended holding Country Conference 2014 in Queanbeyan from Friday 24 – Sunday 26 October, adopting the successful model for Country Conference that was trialled in Cessnock in 2012.

NSW Election 2015

Preparations for the 2015 NSW Campaign are well underway across country NSW. Preselections for Country Labor candidates began in November 2013, sixteen months before the 2015 election, and many of the Country Labor candidates will be endorsed for at least a full year before March 2015. This was part of a deliberate strategic decision to maximise the amount of time candidates will have to raise their profiles locally and campaign against their National and Liberal opponents. However, it will increase the already demanding workload on these candidates, and Country Labor thanks them for their dedication and sacrifice.

To assist local campaign teams build capacity and expertise at a local level, a number of Country Campaign Insight Training days will be held around NSW, with successful seminars already held in Bathurst, Maitland, and Tamworth. These training days are designed specifically for campaigning in rural and regional NSW, and train members and activists on the most up-to-date campaigning skills and techniques.

After three years in government, it is clear that the Nationals have again failed to stand up for country NSW. Both the NSW and Federal Liberal-National governments have made harsh cuts to local hospitals, schools and jobs, whilst funnelling money into Sydney. The recent announcement that the NSW Liberals and Nationals will sell off the electricity poles and wires is another reminder of how the Nationals talk tough, but cannot stand up for rural and regional NSW. All of Country Labor's candidates will be working hard to remind their local communities about the National Party's failure in the lead up to the NSW election in March 2015.

Country Labor Conference 2014

This year's Country Labor Conference will be held in Queanbeyan from 24 – 26 October 2014. After the successful trial at the 2012 Country Labor Conference in Cessnock, the Country Labor Committee has decided to implement the new Country Labor Conference model in Queanbeyan in 2014.

Conference will include a specific Country Campaign Insight training seminar for all Country Labor candidates and local campaign teams. All delegates are welcome to attend this full day training seminar, which will include a briefing on the broader Country Labor campaign strategy.

The policy workshops, which proved so popular in Cessnock in 2012 will also be repeated. The Country Labor Committee has determined that the policy workshops will be programmed to allow all delegates to attend two policy workshops, rather than just one. The Country Labor Committee decided that the four key policy challenges that will be addressed by the policy workshops will be health, regional development, education and NDIS & ageing.

The Bluey Rodwell Award will also be announced at the Conference dinner. The Bluey Rodwell Award is the highest honour within Country Labor and is presented at every Country Conference.

Thank you to the Country Labor Committee for their ongoing support and assistance with the planning for what will be a very productive and insightful conference.

COUNTRY LABOR

PLATFORM AMENDMENTS

1. AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION

Insert a new 8.25 (and renumber all following items in Chapter 8)

A Very Fast Train (VFT) linking Brisbane – Sydney – Canberra – Melbourne with limited additional stops is one of the best ways to open up regions on the east coast of Australia for effective decentralisation of the population. NSW Labor will coordinate with Federal, Victorian and Queensland ALP to undertake a feasibility and scoping study on implementation of the VFT.

Recommendation: *Noting that whilst in government, the Federal Labor Government began a comprehensive feasibility study into VFT on the east coast, amend Platform to insert after 8.25, then renumber:*

8.26 *NSW Labor will cooperate with any Federal Labor initiatives to undertake comprehensive feasibility and scoping studies of a Very Fast Train on the east coast of Australia.*

COUNTRY LABOR

AGENDA ITEMS

1. EDEN-MONARO FEC

Conference notes that the people of regional NSW have a right to be properly represented in the NSW Parliament and states that all sections of the party should support regional candidates in winnable positions in NSW Legislative Council pre-selections.

Recommendation: *Support. Conference notes that Country Labor currently has two members of the Legislative Council.*

2. GILMORE FEC

At least 50% of MLC and Senate appointments be made from outside the Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong areas of NSW. Currently the ALP has very few such MLC or Senate members representing and residing in NSW Regional areas.

Recommendation: *Reject. Conference supports representation from country NSW on the NSW Legislative Council ticket.*

3. GOULBURN BRANCH

Conference calls on the Party Office to allocate resources for the election of three Country Organisers who will represent Northern, Central and Southern NSW. The Country Organisers to be domicile in these areas.

Recommendation: *Note. Conference supports local organising efforts and the election of local SEC organisers to build capacity for future campaigns at a branch and SEC level.*

4. GRIFFITH BRANCH

Conference calls on NSW Labor to ensure that rural based members of Country Labor are represented in the NSW Legislative Council. This means candidates from Country Labor are placed on winnable positions on the Legislative Council ticket.

Recommendation: *Support. Conference notes that Country Labor currently has two members of the Legislative Council.*

5. LITHGOW BRANCH

Conference expresses grave concerns about the jobs crisis sweeping rural and regional NSW as a result of the incompetence and gross economic mismanagement of the NSW and federal Liberal/National governments.

Conference notes that since the second half of 2013 more than 1000 jobs have been lost from the manufacturing and mining sectors in the central west alone in addition to the loss of hundreds of public sector workers in the 3 years since the election of the O'Farrell Liberal/National government.

Noting that neither government has advanced any proposal to address this critical situation we call upon NSW Country Labor to develop a rural and regional jobs strategy as a matter of priority.

Recommendation: Support.

6. MURRAY DARLING SEC

Conference condemns the Baird Government for closing regional offices and dismantling the teacher transfer incentive scheme of accumulated transfer points. This will impact on small rural schools, especially schools in western NSW.

Recommendation: Support.

7. MURRAY DARLING SEC

Conference calls on the NSW Government to take the eradication of fruit flies more seriously. The relevant Government Department must be properly funded respond to fruit fly outbreaks.

Recommendation: Support.

8. PORT MACQUARIE BRANCH

That success of the ALP Party nationally and at a state level depends on winning seats in the bush. To enable more country seats to be won back from the National Party, would require allocating assets to membership drives and other activities in the bush from Head Office. It would also require the Country Labor brand to be spread around Australia and policies to be developed especially for the bush.

Recommendation: Support. The 2011 Annual Conference and the 2011 National Conference both supported the formation of Country Labor at a national level.

9. QUEANBEYAN BRANCH

Conference notes that the people of regional NSW have a right to be properly represented in the NSW Parliament and resolves that regional candidates hold winnable positions on the NSW Legislative Council ticket.

Recommendation: Support. Conference notes that Country Labor currently has two members of the Legislative Council.

