Country Conference 2020

Country People Supporting Country Communities

Friday 28 February – Sunday 1 March 2020
Singleton Civic Centre, 12 Queen St, Singleton

Message from the Acting General Secretary

Thank you for attending the 2020 Country Conference in Singleton.

As this is our first meeting since the State and Federal elections of 2019, this Conference provides an important moment of reflection for Country Labor.

During those difficult campaigns, we had a strong agenda for working people and were able to help fantastic candidates like Janelle Saffin and Fiona Phillips win Lismore and Gilmore for Labor. Country Labor also saw Tara Moriarty elected to the NSW Legislative Council.

However, the re-election of the Coalition means that regional New South Wales will bear the brunt of further cuts to healthcare, education, and workers’ rights. After this year’s droughts, fires, and floods, it has never been more important for regional New South Wales to have a strong Labor voice.

That’s why it is important that we strengthen Country Labor - to ensure regional New South Wales has the best possible representation and a real voice in Parliament.

I look forward to discussing a forward plan for Country Labor, which includes:

• Supporting two Country Labor candidates in winnable positions on the Legislative Council Ticket;
• Strengthening Country Conference and increasing our engagement with the Trade Union Movement;
• Reviewing and updating the Country Labor Platform;
• Improving governance by implementing the recommendations from the Lavarch Review; and
• Supporting our Country Labor candidates in the upcoming Local Government Elections.

But most of all, I look forward to discussing the real issues affecting the lives of regional people, as well as the strong positive plans we will formulate together to win the next State and Federal elections.

Yours in Solidarity,

Bob Nanva
ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY
Thank you for joining us at the 2020 Country Conference in Singleton. As always, Country Conference is the highlight of the Country Labor calendar.

We have a host of events to welcome members to Singleton. This starts with our usual BBQ and Welcome Drinks at the Club House Hotel. For those looking to stand for the upcoming Council elections, or want to assist in campaigns, we have organised a special Campaign Insight Training Session focusing on the needs of local government campaigns.

We are fortunate to have both the State Leader Jodi McKay and Federal Leader Anthony Albanese address conference on Saturday morning. Following this, the Saturday will focus on the policy debates from the motions submitted from Party Units and our Affiliated Trade Unions. Saturday will finish up with an opportunity for delegates to address conference on issues they are passionate about in a format similar to federal parliament’s 90 second statements.

Saturday night will again play host to the Country Conference Dinner at Club Singleton where one hard working member will be presented with the Bluey Rodwell Award. This year trivia will be hosted by Joel Fitzgibbon and Tim Ayres - so make sure you study up on your general trivia knowledge.

The final day of Conference will open with a policy urgency debate then a Q & A panel session. The panel sessions, facilitated by a Shadow Minister will focus on the key policy areas including; creating and supporting regional jobs; the impact of drought and natural disasters on our mental health; and supporting recovery from the recent bushfires.

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work during 2019. It was a difficult year for the Party, our Country Conference is where we start the process to regroup and rebuild for our next campaigns. I look forward to working with you in 2020.

Jay Suvaal
COUNTRY ORGANISER
## Country Conference Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00-4.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Campaign Insight Training</strong>&lt;br&gt;Aimed at candidates and campaign teams to provide training and upskill members for the upcoming local government elections including:&lt;br&gt;- Low-cost campaigning&lt;br&gt;- Understanding fundraising and disclosure requirements</td>
<td>Club Singleton – 50 Pitt St, Singleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00-8.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Conference Welcome BBQ and Drinks</strong></td>
<td>Club House Hotel – 142 John St, Singleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SATURDAY 29 FEBRUARY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.00am</td>
<td><strong>Credentialling and Badge Collection Opens</strong></td>
<td>Singleton Civic Centre – 12 Queen St, Singleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td><strong>Official Opening of Country Conference</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Welcome to Country&lt;br&gt;- Opening of Conference&lt;br&gt;- Welcome to the Upper Hunter Electorate</td>
<td>Singleton Civic Centre – 12 Queen St, Singleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td><strong>Address by Federal Labor Leader, Anthony Albanese</strong></td>
<td>Singleton Civic Centre – 12 Queen St, Singleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.15 am</td>
<td><strong>Address by NSW Labor Leader, Jodi McKay</strong></td>
<td>Singleton Civic Centre – 12 Queen St, Singleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td><strong>Conference Policy Debates</strong></td>
<td>Singleton Civic Centre – 12 Queen St, Singleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00–2.00pm</td>
<td><strong>LUNCH BREAK</strong></td>
<td>Lunch will be provided at the conference venue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.30-4.30pm</td>
<td><strong>Conference Policy Debates</strong></td>
<td>Singleton Civic Centre – 12 Queen St, Singleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.30-5.00pm</td>
<td><strong>90 Second Statements</strong></td>
<td>Singleton Civic Centre – 12 Queen St, Singleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Conference closes for the day</strong></td>
<td>Singleton Civic Centre – 12 Queen St, Singleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00-9.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Conference Dinner</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Trivia Hosted by Joel Fitzgibbon MP and Senator Tim Ayres&lt;br&gt;- Presentation of the Bluey Rodwell Award</td>
<td>Club Singleton – 50 Pitt St, Singleton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## COUNTRY CONFERENCE AGENDA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY 1 MARCH</td>
<td><strong>Country Conference</strong></td>
<td><strong>Singleton Civic Centre – 12 Queen St, Singleton</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td><strong>Conference Opens</strong></td>
<td><strong>Singleton Civic Centre – 12 Queen St, Singleton</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00-9.45am</td>
<td><strong>Conference Urgency Motion Debate</strong></td>
<td><strong>Singleton Civic Centre – 12 Queen St, Singleton</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.45-10.30am</td>
<td><strong>Q &amp; A Panel Session: Creating and Supporting Regional Jobs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Singleton Civic Centre – 12 Queen St, Singleton</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30-10.45am</td>
<td><strong>MORNING TEA BREAK</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.45-11.30am</td>
<td><strong>Q &amp; A Panel Session: The impact of the drought and natural disasters on our mental health</strong></td>
<td><strong>Singleton Civic Centre – 12 Queen St, Singleton</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30-12.15pm</td>
<td><strong>Q &amp; A Panel Session: Supporting recovery from the recent bushfires</strong></td>
<td><strong>Singleton Civic Centre – 12 Queen St, Singleton</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.15-12.30pm</td>
<td><strong>Conference Wrap up and Close of Conference</strong></td>
<td><strong>Singleton Civic Centre – 12 Queen St, Singleton</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AGENDA

The agenda order will be determined by the Country Labor Party Executive in consultation with the General Secretary and the Party Officers.

Where possible, the agenda order will proceed as per the published Conference Program in the Conference Agenda.

The Policy Debates will be dealt with in the same manner as Policy Reports are presented at the Annual State Conference.

Each Debate will be moved/seconded as they stand in the Conference Agenda; i.e., all recommendations will be taken as moved and will replace original items where appropriate.

Speakers will then be able to speak to the report and/or on individual items or recommendations.

Speakers can move amendments to the report as per the standing orders, to change individual items or recommendations.

The Standing Orders will apply, with 45 minutes for each Policy Debate with provision for extension of time by resolution of Conference. Other time limits will apply as per the Conference Program.
Standing Orders

a. A quorum shall consist of not less than 40 delegates.

b. The time for discussion shall be limited to 45 minutes for each question unless time is extended by express resolution of Conference. The original speaker moving the motion is to have five minutes and each succeeding speaker three minutes. Where extensions of time are granted to speakers, no more than one extension is to be granted to any one person in each debate.

c. The first delegate to attract the attention of the Chair shall have precedence in speaking.

d. Delegates addressing the Conference shall direct their remarks to the Chair and remain standing. Delegates shall not use any provocative or discourteous expressions which are calculated to disturb debate.

e. Any number of amendments may be moved and discussed simultaneously with the motion. Amendments will be submitted to the vote in their respective numerical order and must be submitted to the Chair in writing. Motions and amendments must be submitted to the Chair in writing no later than 6pm on Friday night.

f. When a motion has been moved and seconded the Chair will proceed to take the vote; unless a delegate rises to oppose it, or proposes an amendment. Not more than two delegates may speak in succession either for or against the motion. If, after the second speakers’ remarks are concluded, no delegate rises to speak on the other side, the motion will be put to the Conference.

g. Any delegate may move a suspension of Standing Orders to discuss a matter of urgency not included in the Agenda. Only one such suspension of the Standing Orders shall be allowed each day. Such a motion must be handed to the Chair in writing for consideration by the Committee.

h. No delegate shall speak on the same motion more than once except by permission of Conference; the mover of the motion shall have the right of reply, limited to three minutes.

i. Questions of Order shall be decided by the Chair whose ruling will be final unless it is immediately challenged by a formal motion submitted to the Conference.

j. Any delegate called to order three times during one session may, by direction of the Chair, be excluded from the current session, and on breaching Order again such a delegate shall not be allowed to remain in the Conference.

k. All delegates to Conference must be seated in the body of the hall unless invited by the Chair to take a seat on the platform.

l. The State Parliamentary Leader, Federal Parliamentary Leader or any other person may address the Conference at any time, at the discretion of the Chair.

m. Non-delegates must be seated in a separate area of the hall.
Members of Country Labor Committee

**BRYCE WILSON (CHAIR)**
Jerrabomberra Googong Branch
Bryce was born in the Kimberley of Western Australia and grew up in the irrigation town of Griffith in the Riverina. After completing his HSC at his local high school, Bryce completed his Surveyor training at TAFE in Sydney before returning to Griffith to work for a local firm. Bryce later retrained as a teacher and graduated from Charles Sturt University going on to teach for four years. During this time in Wagga Wagga, Bryce joined his local branch in 2004 believing that to bring about change you cannot just sit on the sidelines. In 2008 Bryce started working in the office of Senator Mark Arbib before working with Minister Peter Garrett MP as an Adviser on education and teaching policy. Bryce has held various FEC, SEC and Branch positions. He currently works as Chief of Staff to Federal Member for Bean David Smith. Bryce ran as the Country Labor candidate for the NSW State seat of Monaro in the 2019 State Election.

**MATT MARTIN (DEPUTY CHAIR)**
Lithgow Branch
Matt Martin joined the Lithgow branch of the Labor Party when he was 15. Since then, he has served in various positions including Secretary of Bathurst Branch, President of and delegate to Macquarie FEC, Secretary of and delegate to Calare FEC, delegate to Bathurst SEC as well as delegate to NSW State and Country Conferences. He was first elected to the NSW Country Labor Committee in 2012 and was subsequently elected Deputy Chair in 2014. He is currently the Secretary of Lithgow branch. A lifelong resident of the Central West of NSW, Matt studied politics, history and sociology at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst.

**MARION BROWNE (SECRETARY)**
Broken Hill Branch
Marion is a long-term member of the Labor Party. Marion is a former Deputy Mayor of Broken Hill and is an experienced community representative having served on Council from 1983 - 2004 and then again from 2009-current. Marion is also the Chairperson of Far West HACC Services and Chairperson of West State Training. Marion is also currently the Broken Hill and Barwon SEC secretary.

**REECE BYRNES**
Banora Point Branch
Reece was born and bred in Northern NSW. Growing up in Tweed Heads he went to school locally and later completed a Bachelor of Social Science (Major in Social Welfare) at Southern Cross University. Reece continues to live in the Tweed and works in the office of Federal Labor MP Justine Elliot. Having grown up in a working class family Reece has always believed in the value and importance of social justice and fairness. In his spare time Reece volunteers with a homeless outreach service providing meals and support to those who live on the streets. In 2010 after having met Justine Elliot doorknocking Reece decided to join the Labor Party and volunteer on her re-election. Since then Reece has proudly stood up for Labor values, running as an Country Labor candidate in the 2011 State Election. In 2012 Reece helped form the Banora Point Branch and continues to serve as its Secretary and as the Secretary of the Richmond FEC. He was successfully elected as a local councillor in 2016.
DARREN CAMERON
Albury Branch
Darren is a long-term member of the Labor Party in Albury. Darren has been the campaign manager for four federal election campaigns for Farrer and has been the State Candidate for Albury twice, in 1995 and 2011. Darren has worked for the Australian Workers Union and the United Services Union as an organiser, and has recently resumed working for the Australian Workers Union. Darren is a Councillor on Albury City Council, a position he has held since 2008. Darren is a keen hunter and fisherman and breeds ferrets.

CARMEL COOK
Lismore Branch
Carmel joined the Labor Party in 1986 and currently serves as the Secretary of Lismore Branch and Page FEC. Carmel has been to every Country Conference for the past 22 years and has been a delegate to NSW State Conference for 21 years. She works for Janelle Saffin MP and is also a Life Member of United Voice.

MELANIE DAGG
Branxton Greta Branch
Melanie grew up in the Cessnock region of the Hunter Valley where she lives with her husband, Josh, and their young children, Amelia and Eliza. Melanie joined the Labor Party in 2004, inspired by her father who was a Party member and then-CFMEU (Mining & Energy) Lodge Secretary. She has since volunteered on Local, State and Federal campaigns before her successful election as a Cessnock City Councillor in 2016. Melanie is a member of the NSW Labor State Policy Committee, Country Labor Committee and the Administrative Committee and she is currently Secretary of both Branxton-Greta Branch and Hunter FEC. Melanie is the local government representative to the Mines Subsidence Board and is currently seeking election as the Rural/Regional Vice President of LGNSW, the state’s peak industry body for local government.

Melanie is a member of the United Services Union and has recently returned to study law as a mature-aged student. Melanie has worked in hospitality, the legal industry and for members of parliament. She was the Country Labor candidate for Upper Hunter at the 2019 State Election.

MARK HUGHES
Tamworth Branch
Mark grew up in Goulburn then lived in Wauchope for about 17 years before recently moving to Tamworth. He was a mechanic for 15 years before being recruited by the Australian Workers Union as an Organiser and now works as an Organiser for the United Services Union. Mark has been the President of the Port Macquarie Branch, the Lyne FEC and Port Macquarie SEC. He has worked on various campaigns at all government levels, and was part of the successful Labor team that saw Peter Alley elected to the Port Macquarie Hastings Council. Mark is a proud Unionist and Country Labor member and looks forward to building on the positive momentum of the Country Labor brand across regional NSW.

JOE KNAGGE
Orana Branch
Joe is an IT Manager with the NSW Department of Education and as part of his job travels extensively throughout country NSW. He is a former president of Dubbo Chamber of Commerce and a life member of the Dubbo Australian Football Club. Joe is married to Jane (also an active Country Labor member) and they have 3 children. Joe has been a Labor Party member for over 20 years and is President of the Orana Branch, Dubbo SEC and Parkes FEC. He has been the Country Labor candidate for the Federal Seat of Parkes on two occasions and has been a Campaign Manager in several State and Federal elections. He has been a member of the Country Labor Committee for the past 10 years.
MICK LAWLER
Tamworth Branch
Mick has been a member of the Labor Party for over 40 years, earning Life Membership in 2014. In that time he has held various positions in different branches – most recently in the Tamworth Branch. Mick’s first involvement in the Party was standing on polling booths in 1969 for Labor and Gough Whitlam in Warringah. Mick became a member and delegate of the Building Workers Industrial Union. In 1980, Mick became a Union Official for the BWIU and then for the amalgamated Union the CFMEU until 2009. Mick represented the ALP in two Tamworth Local Government Elections and has been a Delegate to State Conference for the BWIU and the CFMEU from 1973 to 2014. Mick has been a member of the Rural Affairs Committee and a member of Country Labor Committee for approximately 20 years. Mick lives in Tamworth with his wife Rhonda.

MARIA MARSHALL
Alstonville Branch
Maria is a single parent of two young men who lost their dad suddenly and unexpectedly in 2014. Maria knows what it’s like to struggle, as many Australians do. She has been a Health Services Union member for over 10 years; having joined while working in hotel services in aged care from 2008 to 2014. Maria has worked in public health, as a food services assistant, since 2014. She is a union delegate in her workplace, and is very passionate about fairness for all employees. Maria’s motto is: “If you have a boss, you should be in a union”. Maria has always voted Labor, and has been a member of Country Labor since 2015. Maria is passionate about her North Coast community and is working to get Labor representation across all levels of government.

NOEL MARTIN
Raymond Terrace Branch
Noel joined the Labor Party when he was 15, attending the Beresfield Tarro, Tanilba Bay and then Raymond Terrace branches. After a brief break of service with the party in the mid 90’s, Noel rejoined in 1997. Noel was appointed as an Organiser with the Municipal Employees Union in 1997 and promoted to the position of Northern Industrial Officer in 1999. Noel is currently the Northern Industrial Officer for the United Services Union.

ASREN PUGH
Byron Bay Branch
Asren joined the Labor Party over 14 years ago. He grew up west of Kyogle in the state’s north and is passionate about the central role that the Labor Party has in making positive change in Australian society. He is currently a member of the Byron Bay Branch, a rank and file member of the State Policy Forum and on the executive of the Ballina SEC. Asren has worked in both the union and environment movements, as well as working on election campaigns as a campaign manager and as a volunteer. Asren was a founding member of the Labor Environment Action Network and is particularly proud of the Labor’s history of implementing policies that look after both people and the environment.

CHRISTINE ROBERTSON
Lower Clarence Branch
Christine has lived most of her life in country NSW. She lived in Duri near Tamworth for 30 years before retiring to the Lower Clarence on the North Coast. Christine is a nurse who worked in Sydney Hospitals and Tamworth Base Hospital and then throughout the New England Region in Population Health and Health Planning until being elected to the Legislative Council on the Labor ticket in 2003. She has served as both Secretary and President of the Tamworth Branch and is now the Secretary of the Lower Clarence Branch. She was previously on the Country Labor Committee as a member, Secretary and then Chair.
KATE STEWART
Queanbeyan Branch
Kate is currently a proud Member of the Country Labor Committee, the NSW Labor Women’s Forum and the Community and Public Sector Union. Like you, she has helped out on Local, State and Federal Campaigns and over the border from time to time. Kate has lived throughout rural and regional New South Wales and currently resides in Queanbeyan, attending the Queanbeyan Branch.

In addition to caring passionately about a range of issues and developing a Platform of which we can all be proud to offer our State and Country, Kate is particularly interested in branch rejuvenation throughout our State. If you have ideas, suggestions or feedback, Kate is always interested... But not until after morning caffeine.

VIVIEN THOMSON
Cootamundra Branch
Vivien lives and works on her family farm at Muttama in the NSW Riverina. She is a firefighter, an author, mother of three children and a graduate of the Australian Rural Leadership Program. She has served as the President of the Australian Women in Agriculture and Committee President of the Country Women’s Association. Vivien ran for the Senate in 2016 for Country Labor. Passionate about rural communities in Australia, she travels around the state and believes that only Labor can make a difference to lives of rural and regional Australians.

DARRIEA TURLEY
Broken Hill Branch
Darriea has worked and volunteered in the health and welfare sector for over 30 years and is a long-term member of the Labor Party. She is the Mayor of Broken Hill Council, and has been involved with and initiated various groups including the Broken Hill Youth Advisory Committee, member of the former Barrier Environmental Committee and Broken Hill Outback Jazz Committee. In 2008, Darriea was nominated as New South Wales Woman of the Year and named Broken Hill Executive Woman of the Year. Darriea has recently stepped down as National President of the Australian Local Government Women’s Association (ALGWA) of which she has been a member of the National Executive since 2004.

MARIUSZ WERSTACK
Coffs Harbour Branch
Mariusz joined the Labor Party in 1996. He has worked as an organiser for the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association across NSW in both country and city areas for the last 18 years. Mariusz’s parents were active in the trade union movement in Poland, and after migrating with them to Australia, Mariusz has had a keen interest in social justice and workers’ rights. Mariusz lives in Coffs Harbour with his wife Rae and his three children. He enjoys playing a variety of sports including rugby union where he is also the President of his local club.
Country Labor Platform

COUNTRY LABOR

8.1 NSW Labor is committed to equality of access and opportunity, regardless of geographical location. NSW Labor will promote special initiatives in the areas of employment, health, education, transport, roads, telecommunications and social amenities to ensure this principle of equality.

8.2 NSW Labor recognises that country communities are supported by a broad range of industries, including mining, tourism, primary industries, construction and energy.

8.3 NSW Labor is committed to growing regional areas and their economies to provide continued opportunities for jobs and growth in regional NSW across all of these industries.

Growing Regional Economies

8.4 NSW Labor recognises that the regions play a vital role in the economic development of NSW. NSW Labor will seek to strengthen regional economies by implementing regional development plans which recognise the needs of each region and provide the necessary infrastructure to sustain ongoing regional development. Input for such plans will be sought from all sections of the communities involved.

8.5 NSW Labor supports government intervention in major regional development projects without taking on commercial risk. It supports initiatives such as the Regional Business Growth Programs which are aimed at increasing business investment in rural and regional NSW that stimulate long-term employment.

8.6 NSW Labor supports Regional Development Australia, which devises development strategies, cultivates local leadership and offers advice to investors and government on regional investment opportunities.

8.7 NSW Labor believes better communications infrastructure can reduce economic barriers for regions. NSW Labor will provide, in cooperation with the Federal Government, universal and affordable broadband facilities and mobile access. NSW Labor recognises that universal and affordable broadband is fundamental for future economic growth and development in rural and regional NSW.

Protecting Regional Environments

8.8 NSW Labor recognises the threat posed to regional Australia by climate change, in particular for employees and businesses in agriculture, tourism and related industries such as retail and hospitality. NSW Labor is committed to tackling climate change and ensuring support for regional Australia in responding to the challenge of climate change including drought, increased adverse weather events and environmental degradation.

8.9 NSW Labor supports the opportunities for country communities and industries to contribute to the solutions for climate change. This includes opportunities in green industries and carbon offsets.

8.10 NSW Labor will, in co-operation with the Federal Government, implement a Conservation Strategy for sustainable development and protection of renewable natural resources. This includes programs of advice and assistance to land holders and community groups that prevent land degradation and encourage Total Catchment Management practices. NSW Labor will seek co-operation with the Federal Government and States and Territories to pursue this strategy nationally.

Land clearing: Labor will prevent broadacre clearing and clearing of endangered and threatened regional ecosystems and ecologically sensitive areas. Labor will establish programs to revegetate depleted landscapes and ecosystems.

8.11 NSW Labor will promote ecologically sound and sustainable forestry practices, including:

- Re-afforestation of forests and cleared land.
- Minimisation of wasteful uses of forest products.
- Large scale planting of eucalyptus species for specific purposes.
- Protection of water catchments.
- Mandatory eucalyptus planting when wood chipping licenses are granted.
- The ecological effect of forest product use be considered in relation to native flora and fauna.
- Encouragement of primary producers to expand their agricultural base to include native forestry.
- Developing and implementing a plan of management for the timber industry including millable timber and timber for woodchips.
- Supporting public ownership of State Softwood Plantations.

8.12 NSW Labor supports initiatives already implemented to:
- Ensure that no woodchip licences are issued until full environmental impact studies are undertaken.
- Cease clear felling of natural forests and implement ecologically sustainable silvicultural timber harvesting practices of Australian Group Selection (AGS) and Single Tree Selection (STS).

8.13 NSW Labor remains committed to addressing the long term problems of over-allocation of water resources of the Murray Darling Basin, and the neglect of the health of its iconic rivers and wetlands. These problems have been further exacerbated by prolonged drought and the emerging impacts of climate change.

8.14 NSW Labor will preserve public ownership of and conserve water resources through efficient water management, including encouraging the more economical use of existing water supplies, managing demand for water services, and improving efficiency and quality of rural water supplies.

8.15 NSW Labor will manage recreational and commercial fishing in NSW to preserve scarce resources, improve environmental management and ensure there is no loss of habitat. Stocks of native fish species will be restored.

8.16 NSW Labor will adopt policies that enhance Crown Land Administration and Management, including the Crown Reserve System, Crown Roads Management, Crown Leasing and Licensing, computerised land titling and land mapping of the State.

**Regional Service Delivery**

8.17 NSW Labor will maintain decentralisation by promoting industries allied to natural resources, and continue the establishment of government agencies and services in country areas.

8.18 NSW Labor will provide, in co-operation with the Federal Government, comprehensive modern health services and facilities which reflect the demographic needs of each region, including services and facilities for groups with special health care needs, such as people with disabilities, the aged, Aboriginal people and youth.

8.19 Regional workplaces should be safe workplaces. NSW Labor will provide occupational health services, which reflect the particular occupational health and safety needs of those who work in rural areas.

**Regional Education Services**

8.20 NSW Labor will provide, in co-operation with the Federal Government, comprehensive modern educational services and facilities at preschool, primary, secondary and tertiary levels, including special education, remedial and adult literary programs for those with special learning needs, in each region.

8.21 NSW Labor is committed to providing equitable educational opportunities throughout the State. Many young people leave rural and regional Australia to seek more opportunities in major towns and cities. NSW Labor supports the provision of a broad range of tertiary education and vocationally based training opportunities in country Australia, including university and TAFE education, to encourage young people to stay in country Australia.
8.22 NSW Labor will provide opportunities and facilities for adult education (including retraining) within each region, through TAFE, university and local community learning groups.

Reducing the Tyranny of Distance
8.23 Regional communities should not be isolated by transport difficulties. NSW Labor will provide an efficient public transport system and services throughout each region to ensure affordable, fast and convenient transportation for both people and freight.

8.24 NSW Labor will provide a state-wide system of roads, co-ordinated with an Australia-wide system of roads, designed and constructed to meet the needs of drivers and the transportation of road freight.

8.25 NSW Labor will maintain modern ports and facilities for the service of ships and the handling of cargoes along the NSW coastline, co-ordinated with rail and road transport systems.

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.

Supporting Primary Industries
8.26 To support primary industries, NSW Labor will:
- Establish a state-wide resource information system, based on scientific data, available to the public and private sectors.
- Promote the use of scientific research in assessing, undertaking and improving primary production and land use to more effectively use resources, taking into account informed observations of current and future market trends.

- Co-ordinate and rationalise research undertaken by public and private institutions.
- Continuously review and research the impact of chemical and biological aids to rural production on primary industries, the environment and the human population.
- Control the use of chemicals and radiation in value adding primary produce.
- Maintain compensation schemes, where practicable, for the slaughtering of diseased livestock or destruction of other diseased primary produce and provide funding for the eradication of feral animals, pests and noxious weeds.
- Produce food and raw materials related to the needs of the Australian and overseas markets in line with long-term trends in markets.
- Encourage primary producers to use the most up-to-date methods of production in accordance with principles of resource use and conservation.
- Promote agricultural production, harvesting, transport and processing policies consistent with sound human nutritional values.
- Adopt marketing policies that encourage uniform presentation and quality standards essential in competitive international markets, and provide data that enables producers to make decisions on an objective basis.
- Encourage agriculture through appropriate marketing and research strategies, to become more demand driven and consumer oriented.
- Max stabilise the efficiency and public accountability of marketing authorities.
- End discrimination against NSW rural workers in the areas of wages and conditions.
Country Labor Schedule

Schedule K

Constitution of Country Labor

1. **Objectives**
   (a) To advocate policies within the Labor movement which are of concern to Labor’s country constituency.
   (b) To support Labor’s objectives and platform and in doing so educate members of Country Labor and trade unions.
   (c) To endorse candidates for election to public office at a national, state and local level.
   (d) To publish material of any kind, whether written, audio or visual, that may assist in achieving the above objectives.

2. **Composition**
   Country Labor is made up of:
   (a) Trade unions affiliated with the NSW ALP;
   (b) Individual members of the NSW ALP who live in a country area.

3. **Country Labor Conference**
   (a) The Country Labor Conference is held at a time each year and in a country area decided by the NSW ALP Administrative Committee.
   (b) The Country Labor Committee is responsible for arranging the Country Labor Conference. The Country Labor Committee works out the agenda and recommends a meeting place to the Administrative Committee. This recommendation is not binding.
   (c) Before 15 February each year the ALP (NSW Branch) General Secretary will send out a circular to all ALP Party Units, including SECs, FECs and affiliated trade unions, inviting them to submit items for the Country Conference agenda. Any agenda items must be in the hand so of the ALP (NSW Branch) General Secretary twenty-eight days before the Conference begins. Country items will come first on the agenda.
   (d) The Chair and Secretary of the Country Labor Conference will be the Chair and Secretary of the Country Labor Committee.
   (e) The Country Labor Conference is made up of:
      (i) Three delegates from each country SEC of the NSW ALP.
      (ii) Three delegates from each country FEC of the NSW ALP.
      (iii) Up to three delegates from each union affiliated with the NSW ALP provided that they live in the country [see 3(g)].
      (iv) Country Members of Parliament [see 3(j)]
      (v) Members of the Administrative Committee who live in country areas.
      (vi) Members of the Country Labor Committee.
      (vii) Four delegates from NSW Young Labor, provided that they live in the country.
      The Administrative Committee decides what is meant by the term “country” in this Constitution.
   (f) Delegates to the Country Labor Conference are elected for just that Conference and can be different delegates from the Party Units’ delegates to the NSW ALP Annual Conference.
   (g) Each year the Administrative Committee decides on the number of delegates from trade unions affiliated to the NSW Branch of the Australian Labor Party at the Country Labor Conference. The maximum number of delegates per union is three [see Rule 3(e)(iii)]. The size of a union’s delegation at the Country Labor Conference will be directly proportional to membership.
   (h) It is the right of each union to determine the criteria and procedures for selection of its delegates in accordance with these rules, subject to those delegates being members of that union and financial members of the NSW Branch of the Australian Labor Party.
   (i) Not less than the “minimum percentage” of a union’s delegation to the Country Labor Conference must be women. Provided that if the level of male or female membership of a union is less than “the minimum percentage”, the minimum representation must be set at that level.
   (j) The following ALP Members of Parliament can attend the Country Labor Conference as full delegates:
      (i) Members of the House of Representatives and NSW Legislative...
Assembly who represent NSW country areas.

(ii) Members of the Senate and the NSW Legislative Council who live in NSW country areas. Other MPs can attend and speak at the Conference but cannot vote unless they are representing an SEC, FEC or affiliated trade union.

4. Country Labor Committee

(a) The Country Labor Committee consists of:

(i) A Chair;
(ii) A Deputy Chair;
(iii) A Secretary; and
(iv) The Country Labor Organiser; and
(iv) Fifteen members.

(b) The Annual Conference elects the Country Labor Committee.

(c) The Annual Conference elects the Country Labor Committee.

(d) The Chair and Deputy Chair must be elected in a single ballot. The first elected is the Chair and the second elected is the Deputy Chair.

(d) A meeting of the Country Labor Committee may take place only when a majority of members, including at least one NSW ALP Party Officer, are present.

(e) The Country Labor Committee is responsible for:

(i) Implementing Country Labor’s objectives as set out in Section R and this Schedule;

(ii) Making recommendations to the Conference Policy and Agenda Committee regarding policy motions affecting country areas submitted to Annual Conference; and

(iii) Organising the Country Labor Conference, including deciding the agenda and order of business, and making recommendations to Country Labor Conference regarding policy motions submitted to Country Labor Conference.

6. Miscellaneous

(a) Country Labor shall be under the control and direction of the Administrative Committee and shall be responsible to that body.

(b) The ALP NSW Branch Administrative Committee is responsible for the management and administration of Country Labor in between meetings of Annual Conference.

(c) The Secretary of Country Labor is the General Secretary of the Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch). The registered officer and deputy registered officer will be determined by the General Secretary in consultation with the Party Officer.

(d) The spokesperson for Country Labor is the Chair of the Country Labor Committee. The Country Labor spokesperson shall be the only person(s) to make public statements, subject to the following:

(i) The statement is authorised by the Executive.

(ii) The statement is not in contravention of ALP policy.

(iii) The statement may concern the activities of Country Labor.

(f) Any member of the NSW ALP Administrative Committee may attend and speak at the Country Labor Conference, but shall not vote unless a delegate to that Conference.

(g) Unless otherwise specifically stated in this Constitution, the Rules of the Australian Labor Party – NSW Branch shall apply in all matters concerning Country Labor.

(h) The NSW Administrative Committee will be responsible for the preselection and endorsement of Country Labor candidates at the Federal, State and Local Government levels.

7. Alteration of Constitution

(a) This Constitution may only be altered by the NSW ALP Annual Conference.

(b) Country Labor may propose an alteration to this Constitution if the proposed alteration receives the approval of the Country Labor Conference and is circulated for at least fourteen days in advance of the Country Labor Conference to delegates, country ALP SECs and FECs and affiliated unions.
Motions
1. GOVERNANCE AND RULES

1.1. Wagga Wagga Branch Tamworth Branch

We are not the ‘Country Cousins’ of the city Australian Labor Party. We are all proud members of the Australian Labor Party and are not afraid to say so. Many Sydneysiders migrate to regional towns and are unaware of Country Labor – who we are and what it stands for. This ‘two hats’ problem has to stop as it makes us look like fools on election day with people not knowing that Country Labor is actually the Australian Labor Party.
Country Labor Conference requests:

- That in the state of New South Wales the brand ‘Country Labor’ be removed from any campaign material and be replaced by Labor.
- That the number of Organisers for rural and regional areas of the state be increased to 4 to provide coverage and representation for all branches within the state.

Recommendation: Note and refer to the General Secretary. Country Labor notes the Lavarch Review has removed the elected Organiser positions. Country Labor supports more resources for country branches both during and between elections.

1.2. Wagga Wagga Branch

Tamworth Branch

Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference proposes to NSW Labor to have two Country Labor candidates in winnable positions for the Legislative Council at every NSW State Election, who are elected as candidates at Country Labor Conference by Country Labor members. To increase the representation of regional, rural and remote voices in both the Labor Party and the Legislative Council, our Party needs to ensure that happens by having a minimum of two Country Labor members in winnable positions for the Upper House. If we truly believe that “Labor doesn’t win government if it doesn’t win the regions” then we need to provide opportunities for increasing representation of the regions beyond elections themselves.

Recommendation: Support. Country Labor requests the Rules Committee draft rules amendments to implement this at the 2020 Annual State Conference.

1.3. Wagga Wagga Branch

Country Labor Conference encourages NSW Labor to facilitate greater connections between Branch Presidents and Branch Secretaries. Currently connections between branches is almost non-existent. Through establishing and strengthening connections, the Labor Party is more united to fight for issues that cross over electorates.

Recommendation: Support.

1.4. Wagga Wagga Branch

Country Labor Conference asks NSW Labor to set up a mechanism whereby Branch members can raise local issues to assist Labor Parliamentarians to use Estimates to raise issues about government policies. With the recent changes to Estimates, there is the opportunity to hold the government to account. An appropriate mechanism would enable party members to raise issues and it would enable the party to collate those issues to identify common themes in government policies.

Recommendation: Support.

1.5. Lismore Branch

That NSW Labor distributes updated and amended policies as they are developed, to Branches and members.

Recommendation: Support.

1.6. Port Macquarie Branch

Port Macquarie SEC

We are not the ‘Country Cousins’ of the city Australian Labor Party. We are all proud members of the Australian Labor Party and are not afraid to say so. Many Sydneysiders migrate to regional towns and are unaware of Country Labor – who we are and what it stands for. This ‘two hats’ problem has to stop as it makes us look like fools on election day with people not knowing that Country Labor is actually the Australian Labor Party.

Country Labor Conference requests:

- That in the state of New South Wales the brand ‘Country Labor’ be removed from any campaign material and be replaced by Labor.
- That the number of Organisers for rural and regional areas of the state be increased to 4 to provide coverage and representation for all branches within the state.

Recommendation: Reject.

1.7. Camden Haven Branch

That in the context of our new National Leader’s intent to engage the grassroots of the Party in regional areas, Country Labor Conference proposes that the National Secretary develop a mechanism by which 50% of the funds returned through the AEC after each election be allocated to the FEC for the next campaign.

Recommendation: Note and refer to the National Secretariat. Country Labor notes that all public funding for Federal Elections is returned to the National Secretariat.
1.8. Camden Haven Branch

That in future Ballots for State and Federal Leader all members have one vote each with no special vote for Parliamentarians.

Recommendation: Reject.

1.9. Camden Haven Branch

That Union delegates make up no more than 30% of Annual Conference delegates.

Recommendation: Reject.

1.10. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

The Country Labor Conference should reflect State Conference Floor, that is 50:50 union and rank and file.

Recommendation: Support.

1.11. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference endorses the Lavarch Review’s content and findings. Conference calls on the Country Labor Officials and Executive to work with the broader NSW party on implementing its recommendations.

Recommendation: Support.

1.12. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

The Country Labor Party should remain and maintain its arrangements of being administered by and being part of the NSW Labor Party.

Recommendation: Note.

1.13. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Country Labor Policy Committee (often referred to as ‘the Country Labor Committee’) should be on the Administration Committee or be listed as permanent proxies. It is important that the Executive of the Country Labor rank and file have a line of sight on the finances and risks of CLP.

Recommendation: Reject.

1.14. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

The broader Country Labor Committee should remain a policy focused Committee that also assists with the running of the Country Labor Conference.

Recommendation: Support.

1.15. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor MPs should consider electing a spokesperson of the parliamentary members of Country Labor. MPs should reform the Country Labor Caucus.

Recommendation: Support.

1.16. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference should be held each year before the NSW Labor conference to inform the Country Labor report each year.

Recommendation: Support. Country Labor notes that elections may interfere with the timing of conferences.

1.17. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

The agenda for Country Labor Conference will continue to be developed by the Committee, but should have as standing items: Welcome to Country, Leaders address; First Nations People discussion/debate; Governance and Finances; General debate on motions received from Branches (against platform chapters); and Panel discussions that inform policy development or topical points of interest.

Recommendation: Support In Principle. Country Labor notes that the agenda for Country Labor Conference is set by the Country Labor Committee prior to each conference.

1.18. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

As consistent with the Country Labor Constitution in the NSW Labor Rules, Country Labor Conference should be able to deal with broader Labor policies that are of concern to country constituencies. The primary focus of debate should be policies that impact country communities.

Recommendation: Support.

1.19. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Although the constitution is silent on the Country Labor Committee’s input on NSW Conference policy items, if the policy items relates broadly to country areas, the Country Labor Committee should provide its recommendations on these items.

Recommendation: Support.

1.20. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference supports the findings of the 2019 NSW election review. In particular it notes the chapter on campaigning in rural and regional NSW and endorses the recommendations:

- Having strong regional voices in the Labor team for the 2023 election, and a strong policy platform for regional and rural New South Wales.
Labor should build the profile of Labor candidates and MLCs in regional New South Wales, supporting them to be strong Labor voices for regional New South Wales. This should include media training and support, early preselection and opportunities to represent divergent views of regional New South Wales.

Labor should continue to ensure that its campaign message is underpinned by economic policies that are supported across New South Wales, and particularly in regional New South Wales.

Allow candidates more freedom to make local commitments for their electorates.

Recommendation: Support.

1.21. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

In the longer term, Country Labor should consider supporting full preference voting. In the meantime as noted in the review, Country Labor should re-consider preference deals with minor parties in an optional preferencing reality.

Recommendation: Support.

1.22. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

In the longer term, Country Labor should consider supporting full preference voting. In the meantime as noted in the review, Country Labor should re-consider preference deals minor parties in an optional preferencing reality.

Recommendation: Support.

1.23. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Noting the importance of targeting limited Party resources in the 2023 State election, those looking after Country Labor Campaign Committee should consider, based on lessons of 2019, how best to expend public funding within caps as soon as practicably possible.

Recommendation: Note. Country Labor also notes the recommendations of the 2019 State Election Review.

1.24. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor must ensure non-target seats are provided materials earlier and have back-up plans (such as local printers) for critical materials like HTVs. Party Office needs to be upfront with candidates on the expenditure they each have both in target and non-target seats.


1.25. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

The Country Labor Committee develop a policy and procedure for how it deals with motions as part of a recommendation to the Party Officers.

Recommendation: Note.

1.26. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

That a Country Labor platform be developed for endorsement by the NSW Labor Conference of 2021. This Platform should be developed on the following principles:

- The drafting Committee should be the Country Labor MPs, Executive of Country Labor, Rank n File members from Country areas on the NSW Policy Forum and up to five representatives from trade unions.
- The process for operation and drafting will be agreed by the Country Labor Platform Committee, however, Country Labor members must have an opportunity to provide input and edit the Platform document.
- A timeline for development and consultation will be shared to the Country Labor Committee as soon as possible.
- Relevant Shadow Ministers will be engaged in the drafting and endorsement process.

The Platform will be built on with specific costed country policies developed in 2022 and endorsed by Country Labor Conference 2023.

Recommendation: Support. Country Labor notes that the development of this platform should remain within the full Labor Platform.

1.27. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor agree on a slogan for framing conversations with members:

"Country Labor, Country People Supporting Country Communities."

Recommendation: Support and refer to General Secretary.

1.28. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

The Party Office employ a Training Officer to assist the State and Country Organisers in providing training at a local Branch, SEC and FEC level.

Recommendation: Support. and refer to General Secretary.

1.29. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

The Party Office consult with Unions NSW and our affiliated unions in order to develop a way to encourage better engagement between local Branches and their relevant local unions to enable them to work cooperatively together on mutually beneficial local campaigns and issues in their communities.

Recommendation: Support.
1.30. **Jerrabomberra Googong Branch**

The Party Office develop a range of standard promotional material promoting Country Labor and outlining its history that could be used at markets and events across the State.

*Recommendation: Support and refer to General Secretary.*

1.31. **Jerrabomberra Googong Branch**

The Party Office arrange a meeting with the Senators from New South Wales to discuss their duty electorates and how they can work together to best engage with local Branches. Branches are requested to work more closely with their Duty MLCs and Senators to come up with key local issues to build campaigns around.

*Recommendation: Support.*

1.32. **Jerrabomberra Googong Branch**

Where and if possible, reduce budget allocation to ‘physical campaign material’, and reallocate to media, social media and TV/radio advertising spend.

*Recommendation: Note and refer to General Secretary. Country Labor notes the recommendations from the 2019 State Campaign Review.*

1.33. **Jerrabomberra Googong Branch**

That the Country Organiser works with the appointed training Officer and the Country Labor Committee to establish a list of areas where they will collectively support Branches to promote Labor Membership in their communities. The Country Organiser will provide updates on membership in their written Report to Country Labor Conferences for the next five years. We suggest that a starting point to providing support to these Branches might be to encourage, particularly, Members of State and Federal Parliament to visit Branches and hold open meetings in those communities, in addition to meeting with Branch Members.

*Recommendation: Support.*

1.34. **Jerrabomberra Googong Branch**

That Country Labor should have a Shadow Minister for every large regional social/economic zone, as similar to the Shadow Minister for Central Coast. For example, Southern NSW, covering Batemans Bay, Queanbeyan, Monaro, and Bega.

*Recommendation: Support.*

1.35. **Lithgow Branch**

**Bathurst SEC**

Country Labor Conference compels the Country Organiser to work with the Country Labor Committee to establish a list of Branches which are at risk of becoming inquorate such as to develop processes to support those Branches to promote Labor Membership in their communities and to reinvigorate those Branches. The Country Organiser will provide updates of progress to support these Branches in their written Report to Country Labor Conferences for the next five years. We suggest that a starting point to providing support to these Branches might be to encourage, particularly, Members of State and Federal Parliament to visit Branches and hold open meetings in those communities, in addition to meeting with Branch members.

*Recommendation: Support. Country Labor notes it is incumbent on Branches to inform the Country Organiser when they are at risk of becoming inquorate.*

1.36. **Lithgow Branch**

**Bathurst SEC**

Country Labor Conference compels the Country Organiser to work with the Country Labor Committee to produce a list of priority communities across the rural and regional New South Wales for which Labor should be working on developing a sufficient membership base to establish a Branch. The Country Organiser will provide updates on the progress to establishing Branches in these communities in their written Report to Country Labor Conferences for the next five years. Similarly to the call for support for at risk Branches, we suggest that a start point to establishing Branches might be to encourage Shadow Ministers to attend communities, holding open meetings to welcome people to the types of discussions which exist in the Labor Party, in addition to meeting with any existing Membership in that community.

*Recommendation: Support.*

1.37. **Lyne FEC**

That Country Labor Conference expresses its dissatisfaction that NSW Labor Party Office does not provide significant financial support to electoral candidates with the formula of a minimal amount of $20,000 for Federal Candidates and a minimal amount of $15,000 for State Candidates and the Country Labor Conference calls on Country Labor to fix this shortfall in funding and if Country Labor want to run candidates in all seats then commitments must be made to provide this degree of funding for their campaigns.

*Recommendation: Note. Country Labor notes that over recent elections significant campaign material packages have been provided to seats and that all public funding for Federal Elections is returned to the National Secretariat.*
1.38. Bathurst SEC

That Country Labor Conference calls upon Country Labor to encourage Labor Members of the State Development Committee and the Shadow Treasurer to travel to each Country Labor Branch in New South Wales to discuss development opportunities throughout the State.

Recommendation: Support.

1.39. Bathurst SEC

That Country Labor Conference expresses its dismay, anger and frustration at the Administration of Head Office and the waste of money in legal fees, at the blatant rorting and the lack of due diligence on the part of office holders at State level and this Conference expresses its dismay at the lack of direction shown which no longer addresses the support of ordinary working families. Head Office no longer addresses the support of the grassroots members of the Labor Party. And that this Conference calls on the Review Committee to look at the Party’s governance and set our governance procedures to as high a standard as possible.

Recommendation: Note. Country Labor notes its support for the recommendations of the Lavarch Review.

2. A HEALTHY SOCIETY

2.1. Wagga Wagga Branch

Country Labor Conference encourages NSW Labor to create regional specific NSW health and education policies to reduce the gap between regional, rural and remote NSW and Metropolitan NSW health and education outcomes. Despite the gap, Labor’s health and education policies currently tend to state wide, “one size fits all”. Specific policies can better meet the challenges faced by people living outside metropolitan areas.

Recommendation: Support.

2.2. Lismore Branch

Country Labor Conference affirms that the health and prosperity of our society and the health and sustainability of our environment are not mutually exclusive but complementary aspects of our future. They go hand in hand and this understanding should be a basic underlying principle of both future economic and environmental policy.

Recommendation: Support.

2.3. Tamworth Branch

Country Labor Conference urges NSW Labor to ensure that residents in an aged care facility - high care have access to a registered nurse on each shift. Aged care residents in high care are frail and often have co-morbidities that require supervision, monitoring and administration of medications such as analgesia, insulins and cardiac medications. In 2016 the NSW Government removed the requirement for the presence of registered nurses 24/7 in aged care. Terminal patients are unduly suffering in pain as personal care attendants are unable to administer medications.

Recommendation: Support. and Note Country Labor supports an increase in funding for aged care to ensure this does not come at the expense of other areas of care.

2.4. Tamworth Branch

Country Labor Conference urges that in all aged care facilities involving high care there are mandatory staffing ratios and an appropriate skill mix to ensure the safety of residents is maintained, especially around access to and administration of medications including palliative care.

Recommendation: Support. and Note Country Labor supports an increase in funding for aged care to ensure this does not come at the expense of other areas of care.

2.5. Tamworth Branch

Country Labor Conference urges that each aged care facility develops an oversight committee that includes equal representation of management and resident/consumer representatives.

2.6. Tamworth Branch

Country Labor Conference calls on NSW Labor to prioritise the critical issues of mental health and suicide prevention for young people in NSW. Labor must promote widespread public awareness of these issues and ensure that effective processes and programs, readily available to the public, are in place to deal with them.

Recommendation: Support.

2.7. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Conference notes the importance of regional local communities driving the delivery of local health services. We call on the Labor Party to develop a policy framework that provides local people the ability and flexibility to tailor the delivery of local health services that are relevant to the unique needs of their communities.

Recommendation: Support.

2.8. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference expresses its concern at the failures to provide relevant, timely support for people with disabilities. Conference condemns the manner in which the Morrison Government seems to have sought to exploit the most vulnerable in our community for the short-term perceived political gain of presenting a surplus. Conference supports, and commends, the FPLP and SPLP for keeping the pressure up on the Morrison and Berejiklian Governments to improve NDIS results.

Recommendation: Support.

2.9. Lithgow Branch

Country Labor Conference continues to support a pill testing trial being held at music festivals in New South Wales and that the SPLP hold the drug summit flagged at the State Election regardless of whether Labor is in Government or not.

Recommendation: Support.

2.10. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference notes the recent discussion around harm minimisation and calls on the SPLP to hold the drug summit, as intended, that will discuss and make findings on all areas of drug use and their individual and community impacts, including ecstasy, ice, binge drinking of alcohol to black-out, and current tobacco usage.

Recommendation: Refer to 2.9.

2.11. Lithgow Branch

Country Labor Conference expresses concern at the failures of the National Disability Insurance Agency in procuring and maintaining staffing levels which flows on to failing to provide relevant and timely support and decisions about services for people with disabilities. Country Labor Conference calls on Federal Labor to note and condemn the manner in which the Morrison Government seems to have sought to exploit the most vulnerable in our community for the short-term perceived political gain of presenting a surplus Budget at the expense of those who need Government support most. Country Labor Conference supports and commends the FPLP and SPLP for keeping the pressure up on the Morrison and Berejiklian Governments to improve NDIS results.

Recommendation: Support.

2.12. Bathurst SEC

That a pharmacist be involved in the transitions of care of patients at the point of discharge from hospital. That pharmacists have mandatory involvement in residential aged care facilities. As background, a Nationwide Enquiry found that 98% of medication charts contain errors. When patients are discharged from hospital 3 in 5 discharge summaries contain at least one error.

Recommendation: Note and refer to Shadow Minister.

2.13. Wagga Wagga Branch

Country Labor Conference requests that NSW Labor review the current delivery of the IPTAAS travel scheme to ensure that it is meeting the needs of regional, rural and remote people in NSW. IPTAAS is essential to ensure that regional, rural and remote people across NSW have access to specialist medical services, as it is not possible or feasible to provide every specialist service at every location. Constant scrutiny of IPTAAS is necessary to ensure it is meeting the needs of regional, rural and remote people and Country Labor Conference believes that NSW Labor should be a visible party to this valuable program. At the very minimum, it should have a policy on IPTAAS, not present at the previous two state elections.

Recommendation: Support.

2.14. Lithgow Branch

Bathurst SEC

Country Labor Conference calls on the State Parliamentary Labor Party to oppose any proposal to require the mandatory testing of persons accused of assaulting police for HIV and other blood born pathogens. Not only will such a proposal be utterly ineffective, place health care workers required to conduct such testing in ethically untenable situations it will seriously undermine the principles of harm minimisation which underpin Australia’s world leading response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Recommendation: Note.
2.15. **Health Services Union (HSU)**

All public health workers contribute to the delivery of patient outcomes. Just a few examples are maintaining medical records, diagnostic services to provide medical evidence for accurate diagnosis, specialised cleaning to prevent infectious disease outbreak, meeting the nutritional needs of patients to ensure timely recovery and discharge, providing clinical support and advice for discharge and to allow patients to recover/rehabilitate in their homes.

Country Labor Conference supports the appropriate staffing levels for all public health workers that ensures patients receive optimum care and recognises that all workers are equally important in the admission, diagnosis, care and discharge of a patient.

**Recommendation: Support.**

2.16. **Health Services Union (HSU)**

Every Australian should have a dignified life in retirement and be treated with respect. Successive Liberal Government’s have slashed billions of dollars from aged care funding. Country Labor Conference calls for this funding to be restored, and a sustainable funding model arrived at to ensure that aged care workers can provide the necessary standard of care to older Australians.

**Recommendation: Support.**

2.17. **Health Services Union (HSU)**

All aged care workers contribute to the delivery of residents outcomes. This might take the form of providing personal care to patients, ensuring the nutritional needs of residents are met, recreational activities, emotional support, assisting with care plans for residents, assisting with and administering medications, control of infectious disease outbreaks, keeping residents mobile and independent via allied health services, updating residents’ care plans, or ensuring funding is directed where needed.

Country Labor Conference supports the appropriate staffing levels to residents numbers to ensure optimum levels of care for residents and recognises that all workers are equally important in ensuring quality of life for older Australians.

**Recommendation: Support.**

2.18. **Health Services Union (HSU)**

The safety and security of patients, staff and visitors is paramount in our public health facilities. With the increase of mental health, alcohol and drug related violence in our Hospitals, our approach needs to change to meet this new wave of violence.

Country Labor Conference supports the call from the Health Services Union NSW/ACT/QLD to increase staffing, powers and protections for Security Officers in our public hospitals, thus enabling them to ensure the safety of all staff, patients and visitors.

Conference requests that under a NSW Labor Government legislation changes occur, in consultation with key stakeholders, to ensure such powers and protections are afforded to Security Officers.

**Recommendation: Support in Principle.**

2.19. **Health Services Union (HSU)**

All public health workers provide a vital service to their communities but yet they are being slugged with a tax for coming to work. Some public hospitals are charging staff upwards of $50 per fortnight to provide parking. The communities are also being charged for seeking healthcare and/or visiting sick loved ones.

Country Labor Conference supports the HSU campaign to place a maximum cap on parking at all public hospitals in NSW to a maximum rate of $10 per week. Where car parks are currently free of charge then they should remain that way.

**Recommendation: Support in Principle.**
3. BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

3.1. Tamworth Branch

Country Labor Conference calls on the ALP to hold the line on its greenhouse emissions targets, resisting any moves to water them down for political purposes, and urgently pursue policies that will enable Australia to play a productive role in reducing domestic and international emissions.

Recommendation: Support.

3.2. Wagga Wagga Branch

Country Labor Conference encourages Labor to continue its strong commitment to climate change providing the leadership that the children and all the people of this country so desperately deserve.

Recommendation: Support.

3.3. Wagga Wagga Branch

Country Labor Conference asks NSW Labor to advocate for a program of increasing the number of lay-down change facilities along major highways for adults and older children with disabilities. Older children and adults require lay-down change facilities to be able to travel with safety and dignity. Without such facilities, people with disabilities and their families suffer travel restrictions or they are required to use facilities that are not sufficient to their needs such as lying on the floor of a public toilet to be changed. Currently such facilities are in under supply in communities and are not available at all along busy highways.

Recommendation: Support.

3.4. Gilmore FEC

South Coast SEC,
Jervis Bay St Georges Basin Branch

Country Labor Conference calls on the Federal and State Parliamentary members to emphasise in Parliament that Australia’s current actions on climate change are grossly inadequate and greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise despite commitments to reduce them and the clearly identified risks to national security and costs to the economy. Electricity generation and the distribution grid is in a critical state as a direct result of poorly directed investment and inaction to decarbonise the economy. Prices are at record highs, adversely impacting on low income households and undermining business profitability. Existing coal-fired power stations are polluting, old and unreliable.

As a matter of urgency, federal and state governments must now work together towards:

■ ensuring that the transition to a sustainable economy is fair and equitable, and based on just terms;
■ reducing high energy prices that undermine our economy and future prosperity;
■ building a reliable, low emissions electricity grid that is fit for purpose in the 21st century; and
■ facilitating a domestic and global business environment built on renewable energy and sustainable development principles and governance.

Recommendation: Support.

3.5. Raymond Terrace Branch,
Port Macquarie Branch,
Port Macquarie SEC,
Lyne FEC

That Country Labor Conference:

■ Supports strong action on climate change.
■ Supports the Federal Labor caucus remaining steadfast on climate action, including on emissions targets.
■ Supports the ongoing movement of climate strikes and other measures to raise public awareness and agitate for stronger action on climate change.

Recommendation: Support.

3.6. Lower Clarence Branch

That Country Labor Conference condemns the NSW Nationals for the deliberate misleading of voters in Country NSW with their promise of a $250 Regional Seniors Travel card for all aged pensioners and people receiving a superannuation annuity income during the 2019 State Election. The date for implementation is not yet confirmed, poor communication with treasury perhaps - and further - access has been redefined. It will now apparently be available to aged pensioners and Commonwealth Health Care Card holders. A far cry from self - funded retirees which the glossy election advertising letter stated.

Recommendation: Support.

3.7. Lower Clarence Branch

That Country Labor Conference requests that the NSW Labor Parliamentary Party and the NSW Labor Party develop a comprehensive policy for issuing mining leases and exploratory mining leases in catchments of all NSW Rivers to ensure the protection of the environmental and functional life of these Rivers. This is particularly pertinent in the Clarence at this time.

Recommendation: Support. Country Labor supports a safe, strong, sustainable, responsible and well-regulated mining sector in NSW.
3.8. Lower Clarence Branch

That Country Labor Conference endorse that NSW Labor explore means of restoring the Nymboida Hydro-electric plant - not just to expand the provision of renewable energy but to reinvigorate what had been a vibrant tourist facility for kayaking and other river activity.

Recommendation: Support.

3.9. Raymond Terrace Branch

Country Labor Conference opposes compulsory universal postal voting in Local Council elections, on the basis that it will destroy local jobs, create barriers for candidates, and erode the capacity for voters to engage with candidates and their volunteers. The discrimination that may occur for those who need help with voting, or who don’t have a fixed abode is also a noted side effect.

Recommendation: Support.

3.10. Lower Clarence Branch

That Country Labor Conference requests a full review of the community transport system in Country NSW. Since reduced funding and changes in the structure of community transport, country residents are finding it increasingly difficult to access tertiary health services. One return trip can cost several hundred dollars and people on treatment such as radiotherapy are grossly disadvantaged. This review should be undertaken by the transport policy committee in conjunction with the State Labor Parliamentary Party.

Recommendation: Support.

3.11. Lower Clarence Branch

That Country Labor Conference demands a full review of disaster management in this country. The review should include State, Federal and Local Government and involve all Government Departments in some form. The extreme circumstances in late 2019, with the bush fires across Eastern NSW demonstrate the inadequacy of the current system. There is inadequate personnel and equipment and relying on borrowed water bombers from America, which is already having its own bush fire emergencies, is not sustainable in the long term. The change in climatic conditions with extended fire seasons is our future. Our incredibly well trained and disciplined fire fighters are exhausted and must be applauded for the work they have done. Relying on handouts after the fact is not the answer.

Recommendation: Support.

3.12. Jervis Bay St Georges Basin Branch

Country Labor Conference requests the Shadow Minister for Natural Disaster and Emergency Management to:

- pressure the Federal Government to work with States and Territories to adopt a comprehensive national bush fire plan that reflects the realities of climate change and to adequately fund emergency services so that the lives of fire fighters are not put at risk by inadequate planning and resources.
- urge their Labor State and Territory counterparts to request a meeting of Federal and State Ministers with responsibility for Natural Disaster and Emergency Management, and to ensure that the agenda for that meeting includes the adoption of a comprehensive national bush fire plan and the allocation of adequate funding, including a response to the 2017 request from the National Aerial Firefighting Centre for an increase in funding to allow access to more large water-bombing aircraft.

Recommendation: Support.

3.13. Jervis Bay St Georges Basin Branch

That Country Labor Conference

- condemns the Federal Government's mismanagement of the Murray-Darling River Basin over the past six years, causing incalculable environmental, human, cultural, social and economic loss to the region and to the nation as a whole.
- demands that the Federal Government address this environmental emergency with real, lasting actions, acknowledging the consequences of the pattern of climate change being experienced across most of Australia, including impacts on water flows (deeper, longer droughts, with occasional floods) and the detrimental consequences of the ways in which past management plans have been implemented.

Recommendation: Support.

3.14. Milton Ulladulla Branch

Gilmore FEC

That Country Labor Conference calls upon Federal and NSW Labor to review:

- The funding arrangements and relationships that support voluntary and paid fire service organisations, and related emergency services.
- The adequacy and funding of protective clothing, footwear and personal safety equipment supplied to individual volunteer firefighters and volunteer support staff.
- The funding and adequacy of fire fighting vehicles, air tankers and equipment held by volunteer bush fire brigades and units.

Recommendation: Support.
3.15. Bomaderry North Nowra Branch

That Country Labor Conference calls on the NSW Labor Opposition to lead the way in major policy development that addresses the serious challenge to reducing the list of waiting applicants for Social Housing in NSW. The Conference recognises an urgent need for Social Housing in the Shoalhaven. There are over 1,000 applicants waiting for Social Housing from Kiama to Ulladulla and most have to wait up to 10 years for a place, 85 of these applicants are at the priority level. Sanctuary Point and St. George’s Basin do not have any allocated properties for Social Housing and therefore these areas are no options for applicants. The amount of Public Housing is inadequate, for singles and families. A more realistic wait time should be no more than 2 years for applicants who are not a priority. Many agencies are feeling the pressure. It’s disgusting the way the whole system is failing. International Human Rights Law recognises everyone’s right to adequate housing. With stable housing it helps and supports employment, proper health and nutrition. As we know there are many factors that lead people to seek housing assistance.

Recommendation: Support.

3.16. Tamworth Branch

Following its sale to the Federal Government, Country Labor Conference calls on Federal Labor to adopt a policy categorically opposing the privatisation of Snowy Hydro.

Recommendation: Support.

3.17. Tamworth Branch

Country Labor Conference urges NSW Labor to assess the viability of installing solar panels on NSW state schools. If viable, the next NSW Labor government will commit to rolling out the installation.

Recommendation: Support.

3.18. Tamworth Branch

Country Labor Conference calls on NSW Labor to extend to Tamworth the daily metropolitan rail service that currently terminates at Scone.

Recommendation: Support In Principle and refer to Shadow Minister. The SPLP is committed to delivering a strong and effective regional public transport system. The SPLP will examine the feasibility of extending the daily service to Tamworth as part of its policy development for the 2023 State Election.

3.19. Tamworth Branch

Country Labor Conference calls on NSW Labor to adopt the following as part of its policy platform: Further development of the coal seam gas industry to cease immediately. There needs to be a full and independent investigation into the environmental impacts on subterranean aquifers, groundwater systems, specifically the Great Artesian Basin, as well as clear assessment of the so-called benefits in terms of carbon pollution. There needs to be an economic analysis of the impacts of the CSG industry on other sectors including agriculture and tourism. There also needs to be legislative reform to enshrine the right of local communities to refuse this development and give landholders the ability to control access to their land by this industry.

Recommendation: Note.

3.20. Port Macquarie Branch, Port Macquarie SEC

Country Labor Conference requests that NSW Labor declare a moratorium under legislation to protect Koala habitat, including:

- Declare fire-effected areas using knowledge of Koala habitat/fires and prevent habitat removal.
- Stop allowable activities and authorised agricultural clearing under the local land services act in any land supporting Koala feed trees in the “Fire Affected Areas”, excluding fire breaks.
- Stop all private native forestry in “Fire Affected Areas”.
- Ensure no post fire salvage harvesting in any state forest or private land.
- Revise what constitutes a “significant impact” to Koalas for habitat removal under the Biodiversity Conservation Act in “Fire Affected Areas”. Standard offsets should not apply.

Recommendation: Amend dot point 5 to: “Ensure no post fire salvage harvesting of native forest in any state forest or private land.”, then Support.

3.21. Port Macquarie Branch

That Country Labor Conference moves that we say ‘No’ to Adani, which wants to plunder 12 billion litres of water each year from The Great Artesian Basin to wash coal then dump this contaminated water into the Carmichael River which then flows to the Great Barrier Reef. The reason for this motion is that the CSIRO and Geosciences Australia found Adani’s modelling for its Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystem Management Plan (GDEMP) was flawed and underestimated the mine’s groundwater drawdown on the springs, which could be up to 80 centimetres - four times its legal limit. Adani has predicted drawing down 19 centimetres, one centimetre below what it is allowed under federal conservation laws. At this torrid time of bushfires we
must preserve all our water, our inland rivers and the Great Artesian Basin. Water is life and with 100% of NSW and South West Queensland declared in drought, rivers have dried up. Millions of hectares have been devastated by the catastrophic fires, thousands of homes have been lost in NSW, Queensland and other states. Adani has been given approval by the Queensland Government to be allowed to continue and with Native Title extinguished, traditional owners can be arrested for trespassing. Others with mining claims will follow such as Clive Palmer’s mega mine and Gina Rinehart’s mines and our Great Artesian Basin will depleted.

Recommendation: Reject.

3.22. Port Macquarie Branch,
Port Macquarie SEC

Country Labor Conference rejects the recent proposal of our Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Resources Joel Fitzgibbon, that Labor reduces target emissions for 2030 to match those of the LNP. We express our disappointment that the Shadow Minister apparently took this radical proposed policy change directly to the media (and NewsCorp at that) without prior consultation with or disclosure to the Leader of the Opposition or members of the Labor Caucus.

Recommendation: Reject.

3.23. Tamworth Branch

Country Labor Conference urges the ALP to push for a royal commission into the bushfire crisis of 2019-2020. This inquiry should be modelled on the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission into the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires.

Recommendation: Support In Principle. Note NSW Labor has announced its support for a public inquiry.

3.24. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference notes that regional NSW is in the grips of one of the worst droughts on record. Industry such as dairy are on their knees, small businesses are going to the wall and whole cities and towns are preparing for the possibility of zero water. Country Labor gives its support to these families and communities and calls on the Nationals and Liberal Governments to do more. Their inaction is a disgrace.

Recommendation: Support.

3.25. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference congratulates and thanks the NSW RFS, the State Emergency Service, Fire and Rescue, Ambulance Service, ADF personnel, and National Parks and Wildlife staff for their constant service and resilience in protecting rural and regional communities.

Recommendation: Support.

3.26. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference condemns the National and Liberal parties for their brutal and irresponsible cuts to the NSW RFS and national parks service in this time of increased risk.

Recommendation: Support.

3.27. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference accepts the science of climate change and acknowledges its impacts on regional communities and their economies. Impacts from and increased length and intensity of the bushfire session through to drought.

Recommendation: Support.

3.28. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference calls on state and federal Labor parties to consider electorates being allocated Regional Development global funds that are an uncommitted and can be allocated on the ground to help with community sustainability.

Recommendation: Support.

3.29. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference notes the environmental, economic and social case for a Nuclear Power industry simply does not add up. In fact, Conference notes that the global industry is in decline and ‘next big thing’ like Small Modular Reactors are not even in production. As such, Conference calls on the NSW Government to declare NSW ‘always Nuclear Free’ and further supports NSW’s renewables and nature resource sectors to supply of our electricity, Conference calls on the NSW and Federal Government to develop policy that provides the stability to drive future investment, and the regional jobs that will flow.

Recommendation: Support.

3.30. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch,
Lithgow Branch,
Bathurst SEC

Country Labor Conference supports a new way of looking at housing and homeless in New South Wales; in particular, an incoming Labor Government take a different approach to crisis and emergency accommodation and public and social housing developments by first addressing housing and homelessness in rural and regional New South Wales to relieve some (though, not all) pressure from housing and homelessness issues in Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong and the Blue Mountains.

Recommendation: Support.
Country Labor Conference urges the Country Labor Committee to work with the Shadow Ministers for the Arts to work with a variety of drought-affected, drought-susceptible and interested communities and Local Government Areas to temporarily or periodically host significant art/music/arts festivals/competitions throughout New South Wales.

Recommendation: Support.

Country Labor Conference calls on an incoming State and Federal Labor Governments to perform long-run assessments of the Great Artesian Basin including, but not limited to; replenishment rates, extraction rates, Basin health.

Recommendation: Support.

Country Labor Conference calls on an incoming State and Federal Labor Governments to perform long-run assessments of the Great Artesian Basin including, but not limited to; replenishment rates, extraction rates, and Basin health.

Recommendation: Support.

Country Labor Conference supports incoming State and Federal Labor Governments engaging in a significant review of the operation of the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement with a view to altering the South Australian Water Trigger such that a higher threshold must be reached prior to South Australia being able to take water from Menindee Lakes; and imposing a floor on the amount of water South Australia can drain from Menindee Lakes. Some consideration must also be given to restricting South Australia’s use of the trigger in the case that the Murray River is already in flood.

Recommendation: Refer to 3.34.

Country Labor Conference supports an incoming Federal Labor Water Minister finding a way of causing both Queensland and the Northern Territory to join the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement; and extending the agreement to include the Great Artesian Basin.

Recommendation: Note and refer to Shadow Minister.

That Country Labor Conference rejects proposals to dam any part of the catchment of the Clarence River in order to deliver water to the irrigators west of the divide - i.e. in the Murray Darling Basin. Diverting water from one catchment to another invariably has detrimental effects on the donor catchment and can encourage poor water management from the recipients. The drought is already affecting our catchment, with the Nymboida River, one of the Clarence River’s major tributaries, having a depth of between 0.43 and 1.2 metres at the four metre weir in October 2019. The Clarence catchment supplies both Coffs Harbour and the Clarence Region. We have a history of cooperative use of our valuable resource. It is not appropriate that the Clarence, already in drought as our farmers can attest, should be further punished by the mismanagement of the Murray/Darling Basin.

Despite emotive statements from some Mayors in the North of NSW and Southern Queensland, about our masses of water, the majority of water they see from their planes is tidal salt water. The upper catchment where it is proposed to draw water from has severely depleted flows due to the drought. Withdrawing water from the upper catchment will inevitably affect aquifers in the lower catchment and likely result in salt water intrusion into highly productive farmland. The communities of Clarence and Coffs Harbour are very sympathetic to the drought-stricken towns and farmers of Western NSW and Southern Queensland and have contributed considerably to the drought fund appeals. We are very concerned however to hear of plans to use water from the Clarence catchment to prop up and expand irrigation in the west.

Recommendation: Refer to 3.34.

Country Labor Conference condemns the Liberal and National parties management of water resources in Government. We have seen mass fish kills, water theft, late delivery of water sharing plans, possible corruption all on their watch.

Recommendation: Support.

Country Labor Conference condemns the Liberal and National parties management of water resources in Government. We have seen mass fish kills, water theft, late delivery of water sharing plans, and possible corruption all on their watch.

Recommendation: Support.
3.39. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference notes the idealistic world view that the Bradfield Plan is often considered in, but as the Party of rationale and reasonable policy development, Country Labor calls on the Government to stop pursuing the false dawn of this scheme and rather turn its immediate attention to communities that are about to run out of water completely.

Recommendation: Support.

3.40. Lithgow Branch

Bathurst SEC

Country Labor Conference reiterates our support for avoiding and fighting against both discussion and implementation of the Bradfield Plan.

Recommendation: Support.

3.41. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference notes the latest aerial survey of Wild Horses in the Alpine areas of NSW has counted approximately 25,000. This volume of wild horses in sensitive Alpine areas, is an environmental disaster and is a treat to the nation’s capital’s water supply. Conference condemns the Nationals for their complete mis-management of this issue and calls on all parties to work together to immediately start managing the problem.

Recommendation: Support.

3.42. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference encourages State and Federal Labor Governments to support thermal coal mining communities if demand, through a global markets, for the resource declines. Conference acknowledges the contribution of these communities to our regional economies and to our national character. Further conference understands the importance of high paid jobs to families within our communities and insists that future Labor governments work to ensure that the next generation in these communities have access to high skilled high paid employment.

Recommendation: Support.

3.43. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Lithgow Branch

Bathurst SEC

Country Labor Conference calls on the SPLP to work with other parties to initiate a Legislative Council Inquiry into the 2019-2020 Bushfire Season with particular reference to the following:

- Rural Fire Service (RFS) preparedness
- Changes to the staff levels and preparedness of Parks and Wildlife, Forestry and other relevant government departments
- Laws and regulations pertaining to backburning and whether these are fit for purpose
- The priorities exercised by the RFS for property protection
- Communications resources and training including direct equipment
- What did the RFS take from the Inquiries into the 2003 Canberra Bush Fires
- Assessments of whether fires have been deliberately lit or naturally/accidentally occurring, and lessons learnt
- Is the current state of water policy negatively impacting abilities to fight fires?
- Impacts of Climate Change on the season
- The impact on and contribution of volunteers
- The economic impact the season on the state and communities, such as Braidwood
- Recommendations for future fire seasons

Recommendation: Support In Principle. Note NSW Labor has announced its support for a public inquiry.

3.44. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Lithgow Branch

Bathurst SEC

Country Labor conference condemns the Berejiklian Government’s decision to privatise the Sydney Bus Network; while continuing to fail to provide affordable public transport options in rural and regional New South Wales.

Recommendation: Support.

3.45. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Lithgow Branch

Bathurst SEC

Transport and Roads - Country Labor Conference encourages the Shadow Ministers for Roads and Transport to work to increase the volume of truck stops with toilet facilities and car rest stops with toilet facilities along highways throughout New South Wales.

Recommendation: Support.
3.46. **Jerrabomberra Googong Branch**  
**Lithgow Branch**  
**Bathurst SEC**  
Country Labor Conference encourages the Shadow Ministers for Roads and Transport to work to increase the volume of truck stops with toilet facilities and car rest stops with toilet facilities along highways throughout New South Wales.


3.47. **Jerrabomberra Googong Branch**  
**Lithgow Branch**  
**Bathurst SEC**  
Country Labor Conference calls on the NSW Labor team to work with Federal colleagues to develop a 20 year plan for the state wide train network, including:

- Making Sydney more accessible for all residents of New South Wales
- Extending the intercity train network
- Considering a range of technology options for higher speed rail

*Recommendation: Support. The SPLP is reviewing its transport policy to establish a new vision for public transport in NSW. This will involve identifying short term priorities as well as longer term objectives.*

3.48. **Jerrabomberra Googong Branch**  
Country Labor Conference acknowledges the problems associated with plastic at all levels of the community and as such Conference supports any Government reasonable mandated reduction in plastic in our economy.

*Recommendation: Support.*

3.49. **Jerrabomberra Googong Branch**  
Country Labor Conference condemns the Coalition Government for failing to protect soils and natural environments by allowing a significant increase in land clearing; and to calls on a future Labor government to reviewing laws regulate land clearing throughout New South Wales, with a view to ensuring that current practice is not allowing unsustainable clearing.

*Recommendation: Support.*

3.50. **Lithgow Branch**  
**Bathurst SEC**  
Country Labor Conference condemns the Berejiklian Government for failing to protect soils and natural environments by allowing a significant increase in land clearing; and calls on a future Labor government to review laws regulate land clearing throughout New South Wales, with a view to ensuring that current practice is not allowing unsustainable clearing.

*Recommendation: Note.*

3.51. **Jerrabomberra Googong Branch**  
**Lithgow Branch**  
**Bathurst SEC**  
Country Labor Conference calls on an incoming Labor State Government to undertake a significant review into soil health across the State.

*Recommendation: Support.*

3.52. **Jerrabomberra Googong Branch**  
Country Labor Conference urges the Shadow Ministers for Local Government to reaffirm Labor’s commitment to Federal and State Financial Assistance Grants. That the per capita component of the grants be no greater than 10%.

*Recommendation: Support in Principle and refer to Shadow Minister.*

3.53. **Bathurst SEC**  
Country Labor Conference urges the Shadow Ministers for Local Government to reaffirm Labor’s commitment to Federal and State Financial Assistance Grants. That the per capita component of the grants be no greater than 10%.

*Recommendation: Support.*

3.54. **Jerrabomberra Googong Branch**  
Country Labor Conference condemns the Coalition Government for their lack of an Energy policy and congratulates our SPLP and FPLP for holding the Government to account. Country Labor members support any policy that provides certainty for investment and supports regional jobs.

*Recommendation: Support.*

3.55. **Jerrabomberra Googong Branch**  
**Lithgow Branch**  
**Bathurst SEC**  
Country Labor Conference reiterates its support for Labor's commitment to including the NBN in the Universal Services Obligation.

*Recommendation: Support.*
3.56. Lithgow Branch
Bathurst SEC

Country Labor Conference supports and urges Shadow Ministers for Water work with the Country Labor Committee to review existing water policy and work together to develop a workable policy for the next Federal and State Elections.

Recommendation: Support.

3.57. Lithgow Branch
Bathurst SEC

Country Labor Conference condemns the quality of Water Management engaged in by the Berejiklian Government which would relegate a major regional city to bore water.

Recommendation: Support.

3.58. Lithgow Branch
Bathurst SEC

Country Labor Conference urges the Shadow Water Minister for New South Wales to develop policy to take to the next election abolishing water sharing plans.

Recommendation: Reject.

3.59. Lithgow Branch
Bathurst SEC

Country Labor Conference urges the Shadow Water Minister for New South Wales to develop a regional water trading policy wherein:

- Surface water is modelled by NSW Water (or equivalent) in collaboration with the Bureau of Meteorology
- Ground water is modelled by NSW Water (or equivalent) in collaboration with Geoscience Australia and the CSIRO
- Water is then allocated for distribution to river regions (eg. Lower Barka, or Lower Darling; lower Wilson; upper Clarence; Macquarie River, etc)
- Water can be traded within its region but not outside of that region except in the case of flood

Such a policy will redouble Labor’s commitment to communities and stock.

Recommendation: Note and refer to Shadow Minister.

3.60. Lithgow Branch
Bathurst SEC

Country Labor Conference demands the SPLP cause the Berejiklian Government to undertake a water infrastructure audit throughout New South Wales including, but not limited to, public and private water infrastructure; legal and illegal water infrastructure. And, failing that, Country Labor Conference demands an incoming State Labor Water Minister to undertake the water infrastructure audit indicated above.

Recommendation: Support.

3.61. Lithgow Branch
Bathurst SEC

Country Labor Conference demands that incoming State and Federal Labor Governments engage with coal mining communities to develop a clear strategy for transitioning those communities from coal mining to the future including:

- Supporting physical and technological infrastructure needed for transition
- Repurposing extracted areas above and below ground.

Recommendation: Note.

3.62. Lithgow Branch
Bathurst SEC

Country Labor Conference urges the Shadow Trade and Water Ministers to collaborate to come up with a policy to implement when next in Government to expose the amount of water used in export production; including type of product (eg. Coal, almonds, spare parts), volume of product, any changes in the level of use of water (say, technological development), across time series’. The implemented policy should easily allow industries to highlight where water saving processes have been employed and other water use reductions have occurred for the broader community to acknowledge.

Recommendation: Note.

3.63. Lithgow Branch
Bathurst SEC

Country Labor Conference acknowledges the problems associated with plastic at all levels of Government and that all levels of Government are struggling to deal with plastic. To that end, that Conference supports a Government mandated reduction in plastic in our economy through:

- Ceasing the importation of plastic
- Specific carve outs for Defence and Medicine, for example
- Transitionally, requiring return to country of origin of plastic for disposal
Along the lines of the model other countries are adopting for returning uranium and other nuclear materials to countries of origin

Supporting Local Government to develop new methods of recycling and/or reusing landfill

 Recommendation: Reject.

3.64. Lithgow Branch

Country Labor Conference condemns the Berejiklian Government for failing to protect soils and natural environments by allowing a significant increase in land clearing; and to commit a future State Labor Government to reinstating laws to prevent land clearing throughout New South Wales.

 Recommendation: Note.

3.65. Lithgow Branch

Bathurst SEC

Country Labor Conference encourages all SPLP Members to test the viability of a range of electricity generation and distribution models which minimise overproduction of and, thus, unused power including, for example, a networked two-way hub and spoke distribution model.

 Recommendation: Note refer to Shadow Minister.

3.66. Lithgow Branch

Country Labor Conference urges an incoming Labor Minister for Communications to reinforce anti-siphoning laws to ensure that free to air television stations have first refusal on all matches/games/fixtures played by the Australian Teams and players of sport.

 Recommendation: Support.

3.67. Lithgow Branch

Country Labor Conference calls for the NSW government to consider reopening rural branch train lines so that water might be delivered by trains to drought-stricken communities.

 Recommendation: Support. The Berejiklian Government should examine every option for delivering much-needed water to areas affected by drought, including the use of rail.

3.68. Kurri Kurri Branch

Country Labor Conference calls upon the ALP to develop a National Disaster Management Strategy including but not limited to:

- Examination and/or establishment of a national shareable asset pool of equipment to respond to fire, flood and other disasters,
- The establishment of a national disaster coordination centre, separate from the Department of Home Affairs,
- The establishment of a statutory body to oversee national disaster coordination, under delegated authority from COAG,
- Coordination of strategies which may deliver greater forward management of the environment to mitigate the effect of natural disasters,
- Any other matters which may more effectively manage the national response to disaster.

 Recommendation: Support.

3.69. Bellingen River Branch

Country Labor Conference calls on Federal Labor to develop a National Disaster Management Strategy including but not limited to:

- Examination and/or establishment of a national shareable asset pool of equipment to respond to fire, flood and other disasters,
- The establishment of a statutory body to oversee national disaster coordination, under delegated authority from COAG,
- Coordination of strategies which may deliver greater forward management of the environment to mitigate the effect of natural disasters,
- Any other matters which may more effectively manage the national response to disaster.

 Recommendation: Support.

3.70. Bellingen River Branch

Country Labor Conference calls on Federal and NSW Labor to maintain its commitment to opposing the privatisation of the Landcare funding model and reinstate local Landcare coordinators to stop fragmentation.

 Recommendation: Support.

3.71. Bathurst SEC

Country Labor Conference notes that water is not tied to land and is being treated as a commodity and therefore traded as a commodity. A recent temporary transfer down the Lachlan River has placed an estimated $5 to $6 increase per bale on small bales of hay. Country Labor Conference therefore calls for an urgent inquiry into water and the trading of water.


3.72. Bathurst SEC

Country Labor Conference expresses its concerns about the impact of Uber on the taxi services in rural and regional areas including the collapse in the value of taxi licenses.

 Recommendation: Support. The Berejiklian Government's disastrous economic management of the taxi industry has resulted in the ruin of the livelihoods of thousands of cab owners across the State. Section 160 of the Point to Point Transport (Taxis and Hire Vehicles) Act required a review of the compensation scheme in 2022. The SPLP believes this is too long to wait. The review should take place immediately.
3.73. Bathurst SEC

Country Labor Conference recommends that all betting advertising be banned on TV and radio before 9 pm and that betting advertising be banned in print and social media.

Recommendation: Support.

3.74. Gilmore FEC

Country Labor Conference calls on the Federal Government to work closely with State governments and territories on the National Affordable Housing Agreement. The NAHA is an agreement by the Council of Australian Government that commenced on 1st January 2009 initiating a whole of government approach in tackling the problem of housing affordability. We are faced daily with high demands from homeless people in our area, which encompasses the Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla and Cooma areas of NSW. There needs to be a greater emphasis on the issue of homelessness which is borne out by census results over the years.

We call on the Federal Government to urgently consider the establishment of another National Regional Affordability Scheme (NRAS) scheme to allow for greater investment in social housing, designed to subsidise people on pensions and welfare as key workers in this type of project. Many homes were able to be built and many people taken off the stress of homelessness under this project. People who are homeless cannot enrol their children in schools, cannot maintain work as very few employers will take on a worker who is homeless given the cruel perception that such people are unreliable.

Recommendation: Support.

3.75. Australian Workers Union (AWU)

Background: Country Labor Conference notes that Australia’s unrivalled resource and energy riches have failed to translate into sustainable and affordable energy prices over the last decade. This has been costly for working people as they struggle with manufacturing closures caused by higher energy prices as well families who suffer through cost of living imposts caused by surging bills.

It is vital that Labor brings a coherent response to the twin challenges of reducing energy prices and economy-wide carbon emissions. Getting the setting right can set Australia up for a generation, while getting them wrong will lead to needless deindustrialisation and a lower standard of living.

Despite being the world’s largest exporter of energy, as well as abundant prospects for renewable energy production, Australia somehow finds itself with the world’s highest energy prices. The uncompetitiveness of Australia’s energy prices is a dismal reflection on poor government decision-making and a lack of a coherent national policy. If managed correctly, Australia should remain the world’s energy superpower throughout any orderly transition to a cleaner economy.

Any future looking energy policy must ensure energy intensive industries are not unnecessarily sacrificed. Indeed a well-managed policy should lead to Australia’s heavy industry and downstream processing industries, such as aluminium, thriving as Australia regains its natural competitive advantage in energy.

The surge in energy prices – particularly across eastern states – has been devastating for households and Australia’s manufacturing sector.

Indeed, iconic Australian companies such as Bluescope Steel, Incitec Pivot, and many others, have chosen to expand overseas in countries such as the US to avoid paying high priced energy. Conference notes that the failure to adequately plan has resulted in thousands of jobs lost, sent investment offshore and further risks hundreds of thousands of existing jobs.

Despite the urgency, the nuances and complexity of Australia’s energy grid require a more carefully calibrated response than ever.

A disorderly approach to the replacement of Australia’s existing fleet of energy production and lack of policy coherence risks further grid stability, the security of jobs particularly in regional Australia, intergenerational poverty, and economic destruction for a generation of workers in regional and outer suburban Australia. Conference also notes the important role Aluminium smelters provide in containing stability in the grid.

As an island nation, Australia’s fuel security is vital to the national interest. Australia currently has less than 3 weeks of liquid fuels in reserve, with any disruption to supply bringing the country to an abrupt halt and causing shortages in food and medical supplies within days. Such a prospect means acknowledging that there must be enough supply of domestically refined petroleum product throughout the country to safeguard Australians from the economic and safety risks of inaccessible transport fuel. In an increasingly uncertain world, Australia must not rely on the kindness of friends and strangers when it comes to the supply of vital fuels for our national interest.

Conference notes that gas-fired power generators produce 50 per cent less emissions than coal-fired power generators. With the benefit of being able to provide firmed capacity for the grid, gas will continue to play a critical role in helping Australia transition to a net zero emissions economy.

Conference acknowledges that the most influential way to ensure a smooth and quicker transition is for gas prices to be cheaper.

Measures such as a gas reservation framework, increasing gas supply, and a gas price trigger for gas exports, should be critical to a pathway forward for state and federal governments aiding the transition to a cleaner Australian economy.

Country Labor Conference condemns the Berejiklian Government for failing to protect soils and natural environments by allowing a significant increase in land
clearing; and calls on a future Labor government to review laws regulate land clearing throughout New South Wales, with a view to ensuring that current practice is not allowing unsustainable clearing.

Conference calls for the NSW state government to work with the Federal government to ensure any future gas production is reserved for domestic use, and opportunities to increase gas supply are pursued with the appropriate scientific and regulatory approvals.

Recommendation: Note and refer to Shadow Minister.

3.76. Australian Workers Union (AWU)

Background: Australia’s horrific fire season has shocked all Australians and greatly impacted on regional communities already suffering under drought conditions and economic hardship.

The global change in climate has had significant bearing on the variability of dangerous and extreme weather events, particularly in coastal and regional NSW.

Over the last few months of 2019 and the beginning months of 2020, bushfires have ravaged local communities across the state. Many local residents have died as have other brave souls who have protected us in fighting the fires. Those lucky enough to have survived the threat of bushfires, bear the unimaginable burden of having to refinance, rebuild, and/or re-establish their homes and communities.

Conference notes that many of the brave and skilled firefighters – paid and volunteer – helping to protect communities and families in the regions, are available as a result of being employed in our National and State Forests by the NSW Government. Their skills and value in protecting their communities are due, in part, to their roles and responsibilities as field staff who plant trees, protect endangered species, and nurture our parks.

These important responsibilities help provide good quality jobs for people in our regions, ensuring their economic security and tending to the state’s environmental initiatives.

Conference condemns the decisions by the state government to cut back the number of field staff across our State and National parks. These cuts have left our state vulnerable and unable to protect itself during our time of need.

Ongoing attempts to privatise the Forestry Corporation are equally damaging to the morale of the regional workforce, and the economic opportunities available to our regional communities. In such a vital time, these initiatives are destructive and disrespectful to the many thousands of families doing it tough in our regions.

Motion: Country Labor Conference condemns the NSW Government’s attempts to privatise Forestry Corporation, which puts important regional jobs at risk.

Conference calls on the NSW Government to urgently and significantly expand the number of field staff tending to our National parks in the regions, to help with the response to the bushfire recovery and to contribute to larger workforce in our regions equipped with the skills to manage natural disasters.

Conference endorses NSW ALP’s call for an inquiry into the 2019-2020 bushfires in NSW.

Recommendation: Support.
4. EDUCATION AND SKILLS

4.1. Tamworth Branch
Country Labor Conference calls on NSW Labor to push for a review of the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (Naplan), its purpose and the unintended consequences of high-stakes testing on students, teachers and schools.

Recommendation: Support.

4.2. Lower Clarence Branch
Country Labor Conference urges NSW Labor to move for the provision of extra scheduled professional development days for teachers (1 day per term as is the situation in Victorian schools) to enable them to meet the additional professional requirements of the NSW Educational Standards Authority and the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership.

Recommendation: Support.

4.3. Tamworth Branch
Country Labor Conference urges NSW Labor to develop policies to address the critical shortage of casual teachers in NSW. The quantum of casual teachers in NSW may appear to be adequate but numbers are distributed very unevenly across the state and across primary and secondary schools, with high schools in rural areas especially experiencing great difficulty accessing casuals. This shortage impacts negatively on administration and learning in NSW schools.

Recommendation: Support.

4.4. Tamworth Branch
Country Labor Conference urges the ALP to work with relevant education bodies and authorities to design and implement a civics course for Australian schools that will ensure students understand the workings of the Australian government and political systems and enable them to participate fully and meaningfully in the political process.

Recommendation: Support.

4.5. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch
Country Labor Conference to urge Shadow Treasurers and Shadow Ministers for Education to work together to develop early intervention ethics programs to be rolled out for compulsory attendance for students in year eleven or twelve to assist efforts to reduce instances of unethical conduct in both private and public sector dealings in response to the Royal Commission into Banking and Financial Services. Such a program should have a positive long-run impact on rural and regional institutions like Local Government, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, Community Working Parties; and open rural and regional communities up to frames of reference through which to better critique decisions made and imposed from Sydney or Canberra.

Recommendation: Support.

4.6. Bathurst SEC
Lithgow Branch
Country Labor Conference urges Shadow Treasurers and Shadow Ministers for Education to work together to develop early intervention ethics programs to be rolled out for compulsory attendance for students in year eleven or twelve to assist efforts to reduce instances of unethical conduct in both private and public sector dealings in response to the Royal Commission into Banking and Financial Services. Such a program should have a positive long-run impact on rural and regional institutions like Local Government, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, Community Working Parties; and open rural and regional communities up to frames of reference through which to better critique decisions made and imposed from Sydney or Canberra.

Recommendation: Support.

4.7. Electrical Trades Union (ETU)

Country Labor Conference supports TAFE as a leading provider for electrical training. The ETU calls on NSW Labor to commit to increasing the funding to TAFE to improve the quality and accessibility for the training of electrical trades.

Recommendation: Support.

4.8. Country Labor Committee

Country Labor recognizes the impact on remote and rural communities from the disparity in education standards between city and country students in primary and secondary schools and TAFE.

Results show that urban students have greater curriculum choice and higher achievement outcomes than country students. The following factors have to be addressed to remedy these concerns:

- Increase permanent teacher employment in every school to reduce class sizes, broaden subject choices, increase teacher release time, improve professional development opportunities and reduce the teaching load of all teachers. This would facilitate inbuilt teacher relief arrangements to address casual teacher shortages and ensure continuity of delivery of the curriculum to all students.

- Address the teacher shortage across understaffed subject areas, and recruit additional dual qualified school counselors and qualified special education teachers with meaningful retraining programs and scholarships.

- Ensure all schools fill permanent vacancies in a timely manner

- Improve rural incentives across additional schools in rural and regional settings to encourage teachers to work in rural areas.
- Investigate the conditions of rural school buildings and grounds to ensure an inspiring student learning environment. With the increase in temperatures a review of the provision of air conditioning between eastern and western regions should be undertaken.

- Expand the provision of free public preschool education, support classes and SSPs

- Provide adequate standard of accommodation for country teachers to attract and keep teachers.

- Ensure that technology overcomes the disadvantage of remoteness. In the Northern Territory the School of the Air students receive $10,000 each to upgrade their technologies at home to ensure equity of access.

As the Labor Party fights to have the original Gonski funding restored, this recurrent funding must address the above factors. The Local Schools, Local Decisions Policy inhibits the effective use of the needs-based funding. Evaluation guidelines need to be put in place to ensure that these funds are effectively utilized.

Workforce planning and teacher recruitment policies are at present inadequate and the NSW Government and the Department of Education should meet their shared obligation to provide a qualified, accredited teacher in every classroom, in every community across the state to meet the educational needs of every student.

**Recommendation: Support.**

---

5. **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND RECONCILIATION**

5.1. **Lower Clarence Branch**

That Country Labor Conference condemns the NSW National Party for allowing the Liberal National Government to close Yeta Dhinakhal, 70kms from Brewarrina.

This correctional centre operated on a rehabilitation model providing both living skills and employment skills for first time Aboriginal men in corrective custody. Yeta Dhinakhal had been operational since 2000, although little has been done to it since 2011. It has a long history of decreasing recidivism. It is shameful that a positive project such as this can be removed at the stroke of a budgetary pen when Aboriginal people have such a high rate off incarceration in our State.

**Recommendation: Support.** The closure of Yeta Dhinakhal is short sighted and runs counter to the need to reduce recidivism once a person leaves the prison system.

5.2. **Bathurst SEC**

That Country Labor Conference condemns the Berejiklian Government’s decision to close Warakiri and Yetta Dhinnakal Correction Facilities (Ivanhoe and Brewarrina) and urges the SPLP to continue to pressure the LNP over the decision and to ensure that the land on which the Brewarrina facility is housed (particularly) is not flogged off in the rural fire sale Senator Bridget McKenzie has flagged is likely.

**Recommendation: Support.**

5.3. **Lismore Branch**

That Country Labor Conference calls on the Labor Party to fully support the Uluru Statement in its totality.

**Recommendation: Support.**

5.4. **Port Macquarie Branch**

Country Labor Conference supports the commitment to the principles of the Uluru Statement and a Voice to Parliament for Aboriginal and Torres Strait and Islander peoples.

**Recommendation: Support.**
5.5. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Conference notes the importance of Financial Literacy in regional communities. Conference encourages the NSW and Federal Labor parties to work with Aboriginal communities, particularly in rural and regional Australia, and financial institutions to improve financial literacy. This could translate material into local Aboriginal languages and/or dialects to promote stronger financial literacy in Aboriginal communities and better relationships between Aboriginal communities and banks, credit unions and other financial institutions.

Recommendation: Support.

5.6. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference encourages an incoming State Labor Government to engage in a whole-of-Government Review of barriers that might prohibit Aboriginal and Torres Strait people from fully engaging with government services.

Recommendation: Support.

5.7. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Lithgow Branch

Country Labor Conference calls on relevant Shadow Ministers to work with the Indigenous Affairs and Recognition Policy Committee to develop a policy to provide adequate and dedicated aged care service options to ageing members of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities such that the care and familial access is targeted to individual, cultural, health and familial needs.

Recommendation: Support.

5.8. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Lithgow Branch

Country Labor Conference expresses concern about the state of Closing the Gap throughout Australia; but particularly notes that the New South Wales Government constantly defunding rural and regional health care is, if nothing else, causing increasing problems for Aboriginal communities.

Recommendation: Support.

5.9. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Lithgow Branch

Country Labor Conference expresses concern about the state of Closing the Gap throughout Australia; but particularly notes that the New South Wales Government constantly defunding rural and regional health care is, if nothing else, causing increasing problems for Aboriginal communities. Country Labor Conference encourages the State Shadow Ministers for Health and Aboriginal Affairs to work with the Indigenous Affairs and Recognition Policy Committee and the Country Labor Committee to improve, particularly, funding and resourcing for access to the following services for Aboriginal communities:

- Maternity care; birthing; post-natal care
- Dialysis services
- Size of medical facilities

The Shadow Ministers for Health and Aboriginal Affairs to engage in deeper consultation with rural and regional Aboriginal communities throughout New South Wales.

Recommendation: Support.

5.10. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference urges an incoming Federal Labor Government to direct Austrade and other partner departments to work Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, to produce information kits containing, among other things, guides for how to establish, develop, maintain, extend export markets.

Recommendation: Support.

5.11. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference urges relevant shadow ministers to work with all stakeholders, including native title holders, to ensure that the maximum level of benefits are shared with regional communities in which mining takes place.

Recommendation: Support.

5.12. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference supports an incoming Federal Labor Attorney-General reviewing the Native Title Act to consider whether temporary or ephemeral property (like water or snow) should, in fact, be included in the suite of Rights to which Traditional Owners might be entitled; consideration given to the method of incorporating such rights; guarantees for the accessibility of such temporary or ephemeral property; and, any situations of restriction on such rights (for example, during extreme drought conditions).

Recommendation: Support.

5.13. Lithgow Branch

Country Labor Conference encourages a future incoming Federal Labor Government to offer grants to Aboriginal communities, particularly in rural and regional Australia, to work with banks, credit unions and other financial institutions to translate material into local Aboriginal languages and/or dialects to promote stronger financial literacy in Aboriginal communities and better relationships between Aboriginal communities and banks, credit unions and other financial institutions.

Recommendation: Support.

5.14. Lithgow Branch

Country Labor Conference supports an incoming Federal Labor Attorney-General reviewing the Native Title Act to consider whether temporary or ephemeral property (like water or snow) should, in fact, be included in the suite of Rights to which Traditional Owners might be entitled; consideration given to the method of incorporating such rights; guarantees for the accessibility of such temporary or ephemeral property; and, any situations of restriction on such rights (for example, during extreme drought conditions).

Recommendation: Support.
5.15. Lithgow Branch

Country Labor Conference urges an incoming Federal Labor Government to direct Austrade, in consultation with the Indigenous Affairs and Recognition Policy Committee and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, to produce information kits containing, among other things, guides for how to establish, develop, maintain, extend export markets designed for use by First Nations People for engaging in productive economic activities on Traditional lands and other property acquired by First Nations People. We envisage that native flora and fauna and/or traditional arts, crafts and other activities will be the focus of such information kits.

Recommendation: Support.

5.16. Lithgow Branch

Bathurst SEC

Country Labor Conference acknowledges the place of First Nations People in our society and democracy and, to reflect this, urges Country Labor Conference to always contain an Indigenous Affairs debate at Country Labor Conference.

Recommendation: Support.
6. OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE

6.1. Tamworth Branch

Country Labor Conference calls on the next federal Labor government to take actions to address tax evasion in Australia, in particular the practice of wealthy Australians using overseas tax havens to minimise their duty to pay a fair share of tax and the ability of major international corporations to shift profits earned in Australia to foreign low-tax jurisdictions.

Recommendation: Support.

6.2. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference notes changes in behavioural and externality economic analysis. Conference calls on Labor to include in its platforms updates to Charters of Budget Honesty and to require central agencies, such as Treasury, to undertake second round effects costings with a particularly focus on rural and regional Australia.

Recommendation: Note.

6.3. Lithgow Branch

Bathurst SEC

Country Labor Conference notes improvements in behavioural and externality economic analysis and demand incoming State and Federal Labor Governments to update Charters of Budget Honesty, and equivalent, to cause Departments of the Treasury, and equivalent, undertake second round effects costings of new measures and changes to policy to cause better confidence in the impact of any policy on, particularly, rural and regional Australia.

Recommendation: Support.

6.4. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Conference notes the Hayne Royal Commission into Banking and Financial Services, and its impacts on country communities. Conference condemns the Nationals and Liberals reluctance to improve banking and/or financial service provision. Conference calls on Labor to bring forward specific policy that looks to implement recommendations.

Recommendation: Support.

6.5. Lithgow Branch

Country Labor Conference notes the Hayne Report from the Royal Commission into Banking and Financial Services along with the Coalition Government’s reluctance to improve banking and/or financial service provision; and demand that incoming Federal Labor Attorney-General and Treasurer will give consideration to the current state of Corporations Law and Director’s Duties and their impact on the current state of affairs in banking and financial institutions and the general levels of trust for institutions in the community.

Recommendation: Support.

6.6. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Tamworth Branch

Country Labor Conference calls on Newstart to be increased to a level of a basic living standard. Conference congratulates our Federal Country Labor MPs for fighting for this increase and articulating the importance of this measure both socially and economically.

Recommendation: Support.

6.7. Lithgow Branch


Recommendation: Support.

6.8. Electrical Trades Union (ETU)

The ETU calls on Labor to unconditionally support the full public ownership of Essential Energy. Full public control of energy providers in rural and regional communities have proven to be vital as we face an increasingly volatile environment.

Recommendation: Support.

6.9. Electrical Trades Union (ETU)

That a future NSW Labor Government commits to reversing the structure of Essential Energy as a State Owned Corporation and bring it under the full control of the Government and Minister.

Recommendation: Support In Principle and refer to Shadow Minister.

6.10. Electrical Trades Union (ETU)

The ETU has seen the devastating impact the Australian Energy Regulator is having on the energy sector in NSW. The ETU calls on both Federal and State Labor to support reforms to fix the broken energy regulation system that has created an inefficient and under resourced energy sector which has led to increased job losses, decreased reliability, decreased safety, and skyrocketing electricity prices.

Recommendation: Support In Principle. The SPLP supports changes to the regulation of the whole electricity market to ensure the safety and reliability of the network and deliver lower energy prices.

6.11. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch
Country Labor Conference notes the Commonwealth Government’s ongoing attacks on job seekers and encourages the FPLP to continue fighting against the Indue Card, Drug testing job seekers, Robodebt, and failing to increase Newstart Allowance.

**Recommendation: Support.**

6.12. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch  
   Lithgow Branch  
   Bathurst SEC

Country Labor Conference demands that rural and regional members of Parliament work with Credit Unions, Mutual Banks and Banks to maximise rural and regional community access to banking and financial institutions both now and in through the course of drought and to minimise or stop Branch closures throughout rural and regional Australia in response to an enduring drought.

**Recommendation: Support.**

6.13. Bathurst SEC

Country Labor Conference urges incoming State and Federal Labor Governments to bargain as required to promote a national wage rise to combat economic stagnation, rising inequality and the problem of monetary policy ineffectiveness.

**Recommendation: Support.**


That the Australian Labor Party should legislate and implement in the next Term of Office a Federal Register of Unethical Companies (F.R.U.C.) to name and shame Companies that behave unethically and to warn investors, and directors, and employees.

**Recommendation: Support In Principle and refer to Shadow Minister.**

7. PROSPERITY AND FAIRNESS AT WORK

7.1. Lithgow Branch

Country Labor Conference notes the Commonwealth Government’s ongoing attacks on job seekers and encourages the FPLP to continue attacking:

- The existence of the Indue Card (Cashless Debit Card). That such blatant profiteering off Consolidated Revenue from former Members of Parliament is occurring is a very bad sign for our democracy. Budget Papers 2 for the 2019-2020 budget contains no detail about the drop in line in the Budget Speech; costs of extending the Indue Card are unclear; details of to whom the LNP intends to extend the Indue Card are unclear; the volume of businesses accepting the Indue Card are clear and problematically small.

- Drug-testing job seekers simply because they are job seekers is simply unacceptable.

- Robodebt and the impact of Robodebt on many vulnerable Australians.

- The Government’s approach to job creation, which is to be incredibly proud of generating below trend jobs growth; to be incredibly proud of forecasts of below trend jobs growth; while verballing Newstart recipients.

- The PaTH program.

- Failing to properly consider the future work environment for a range of industries which are in their sunset years.

- Failing to increase Newstart Allowance to a liveable amount of money to support people back into work.

**Recommendation: Support.**

7.2. Lithgow Branch

Country Labor Conference notes disastrous stories coming from the Job Services Network and strongly urges an incoming Federal Labor Government to review the viability of continuing with outsourced employment services with a view to assessing their increasing costs for supply against the cost of the service being provided in house in the form of a modern Commonwealth Employment Service; particularly in rural and regional areas where employment of a privatised workforce to achieve an impossible aim can only be viewed as a spectacular failure.

**Recommendation: Support.**
7.3. Tamworth Branch

Country Labor Conference calls on NSW Labor to abolish the current discriminatory legislation that applies to workers suffering industrial deafness, under which some workers must demonstrate a higher level of impairment than others to be entitled to compensation, and to ensure that all workers suffering this condition are entitled to equality of access to compensation.

Recommendation: Support.

7.4. Tamworth Branch

Country Labor Conference urges the next NSW Labor government to develop and enact legislation that will stop the exploitation of job seekers who are pressured into paying for internships or undertaking unpaid work in the hope of securing employment.

Recommendation: Support. This reflects NSW Labor policy on ending unpaid internships unless they are part of a structured learning experience leading to a recognised qualification.

7.5. Tamworth Branch

Country Labor Conference calls on the Administrative Committee to change the NSW Labor platform to incorporate wage theft as a criminal offence punishable by a jail sentence.

Recommendation: Support.

7.6. Tamworth Branch

Country Labor Conference acknowledges moves already made by NSW Labor to protect casual workers and urges it to develop policies that will stop the casualisation of the workforce by employers trying to further their own interests at the expense of their workers.

Recommendation: Support.

7.7. Lithgow Branch

Country Labor Conference calls on the ALP to legislate for the right of trade unions to charge non-union members a fee for service for benefits they receive through union action. The fee would be set at the cost of relevant union membership. This policy would apply to any non-union members working under an award or enterprise agreement.

Recommendation: Support In Principle and refer to Shadow Minister.

7.8. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference urges incoming State and Federal Labor Governments to bargain with respective public services to provide a real pay rise to employees to encourage the stimulation required to promote a national wage rise to combat economic stagnation.

Recommendation: Support. NSW Labor supports a fair system of wage setting by an independent umpire. A Labor Government will have a fair and responsible wages policy that provides affordable increases in wages for State Government employees.

7.9. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference notes the disastrous stories coming from the Job Services Network and strongly urges an incoming Federal Labor Government to review the viability of continuing with outsourced employment services with a view to assessing their increasing costs for supply against the cost of the service being provided in house in the form of a modern Commonwealth Employment Service; particularly in rural and regional areas.

Recommendation: Support.

7.10. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference urges an incoming Labor Employment Minister to review the operation of 457 and backpacker visas in rural and regional New South Wales to ensure that all positions are:

- market tested properly;
- fairly and properly remunerated against the Award minimum; and,
- treated fairly and properly in the workplace.

Recommendation: Support.

7.11. Jerrabomberra Googong Branch

Country Labor Conference urges an incoming Labor Employment Minister to review and possibly modify increase Award rates of pay; the National Employment Standards; and, to improvements to Workplace Health and Safety laws.

Recommendation: Support In Principle. NSW Labor supports a fair system of wage setting by an independent umpire. A Labor Government will have a fair and responsible wages policy that provides affordable increases in wages for State Government employees. NSW Labor supports improvements to the NSW WHS Act.

7.12. Electrical Trades Union (ETU)

Country Labor Conference supports the role of renewable energy in NSW. To ensure the integrity and safety of the growing renewable industry, NSW Labor commits to ensuring all workers who engage in electrical work on renewables must be licenced electricians.

Recommendation: Support. This reflects existing SPLP policy.
Country Labor Conference values the importance of regional jobs and calls on a future NSW Labor Government to commit to no further job cuts in Essential Energy.

**Recommendation:** Support. This reflects existing SPLP policy.

Country Labor Conference recognises the unique circumstances of rural and regional communities and calls on a future Labor Government to improve support schemes for workers who may be faced with redundancies, redeployment or disciplinary issues. Such schemes would include compulsory support services provided by the employers as well as time limits for investigations into disciplinary issues.

**Recommendation:** Support.

Country Labor Conference condemns the rampant, illegal exploitation of Australian and foreign workers in regional NSW and throughout the horticultural supply chain.

Conference calls for a national and rigorous labour hire licensing scheme. Conference calls on the NSW Government to lead a COAG approach focused on creating a national labour hire licencing scheme that rewards ethical providers and punishes bad actors. Any accreditation should be linked to any use of foreign labour.

Conference calls for an urgent review of Australia’s migration system. A new, coherent system should be created that fulfils the national interest while protecting the domestic labour market and workers from exploitation.

**Recommendation:** Support.

All public health workers provide a critically vital service to their communities and work extremely hard for their salary. HSU classifications are amongst the lowest income earners, not just within the NSW public health system, but within NSW. The current salary packaging arrangement sees these hard working staff only receiving 50% of their tax benefit with the other 50% going to the NSW Government.

Country Labor Conference supports all public health workers who salary package receive 100% of the tax benefit, we recognise these hard working staff deserve to keep all their salary.

**Recommendation:** Support.
8. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

8.1. Lower Clarence Branch
That Country Labor Conference calls on the NSW Labor Opposition to fight to address the gross under-funding of the Firearms Registry by the NSW National/Liberal Government. Services and resources must be available to ensure enforcement and regulation are delivered in a timely fashion. We must return to our previous level of safety in this area. It is also essential that the cooperative relationship with the police force is repaired so that issues such as storage inspection of firearm licence holders are addressed - some have not been inspected for up to six years.

Recommendation: Support.

8.2. Lyne FEC
Country Labor Conference expresses its concern around the Aged Pension Loan Scheme, particularly the profit made by the Government in offering the loans and believes that the scheme should stop ripping off pensioners by making sure there is a fair interest rate.

Recommendation: Support.

8.3. Wagga Wagga Branch
Country Labor Conference encourages Labor to make every effort and adopt as Policy, strategies to fix Centrelink.

Recommendation: Support.

8.4. Lismore Branch
Country Labor Conference demands the immediate abolition of offshore detention of asylum seekers


8.5. Lismore Branch
Country Labor Conference urges Federal Labor to close Manus Island and Nauru offshore processing centres


8.6. Lismore Branch
Country Labor Conference supports the development of a Human Rights Charter for Australia.

Recommendation: Note and refer to the Shadow Attorney General.

8.7. Lismore Branch
Country Labor Conference calls on NSW Labor to conduct an independent review into the effects of poker machines on the community.

Recommendation: Support.

8.8. South Coast SEC
Jervis Bay St Georges Basin Branch
Country Labor Conference calls for an amendment of the National Platform, Chapter 9 “A Fair Go For All – Custody and Sentencing”, to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14 years. In legal terms this is known as the defence of infancy. Australia has one of the lowest ages of criminal responsibility in the world. This change would meet our international human rights obligations to protect the rights of the child.

Recommendation: Note and refer to Shadow Attorney General. The age of criminal responsibility is a National Standard enacted by State laws. The issue is currently under review by the Council of Attorneys-General.

8.9. Jervis Bay St Georges Basin Branch
Country Labor Conference calls on an incoming Labor State Government to incorporate Land Housing Corporation to be mandated to be an integral part of each Local Governments planning strategy. The current stock is so old and inappropriate that it must be recycled to meet current needs and demographics, State Government should provide evidence of what the future holds and not only on large redevelopment sites in Sydney metro area.

Country Labor Conference calls on an incoming Labor Federal Government to work closely with State governments and territories on the National Affordable Housing Agreement. The NAHA is an agreement by the Council of Australian Government that commenced on 1st January 2009 initiating a whole of government approach in tackling the problem of housing affordability. We are faced daily with high demands from homeless people in our area, which encompasses the Shoalhaven, Euro Bodalla and Cooma areas of NSW. There needs to be a greater emphasis on the issue of homelessness which is borne out by census results over the years.

Country Labor Conference calls on an incoming Labor Federal Government to urgently consider the establishment of another National Regional Affordability Scheme (NRAS) scheme to allow for greater investment in social housing, designed to subsidise people on pensions and welfare as key workers in this type of project. Many homes were able to be built and many people taken off the stress of
homelessness under this project. People who are homeless cannot enrol their children in schools, cannot maintain work as very few employers will take on a worker who is homeless given the cruel perception that such people are unreliable.  

**Recommendation: Support.**

8.10. Tamworth Branch  
Given rising concerns about crime in the areas of south and west Tamworth, Country Labor Conference urges NSW Labor to push for the establishment of a permanent police presence with appropriate manning in this locality.  

**Recommendation: Note and refer to Shadow Minister.**

8.11. Port Macquarie Branch  
Country Labor Conference:  
- Notes that all people have the right to live and work free from discrimination on the basis of their faith, or no faith;  
- Notes that all people of faith, and no-faith, deserve the right to be free from discrimination;  
- Notes that the exposure drafts in their current form do not appropriately balance religion with other human rights, and in fact, have the effect of privileging religious expression (whether genuinely held or used as a justification for other forms of prejudice) over other rights;  
- Calls on the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party to vote against the Religious Freedom Bills in its current form;  
- Calls on the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party to introduce amendments to the Religious Freedom Bills to remove proposed clauses that would erode existing anti-discrimination laws that protect LGBTIQ+ people and other groups;  
- Notes that the exposure drafts in their current form would also allow a person of one faith to discriminate against a person of another faith. Country Labor Conference calls on the FPLP to make amendments to rectify this.  
- Should the amendments proposed in this motion be voted down by the Coalition, we call on the FPLP oppose the bill in its entirety. This override of existing anti-discrimination laws is an attack on the social cohesion of our nation that the Australian Labor Party should not accept.  

**Recommendation: Support in Principle and refer to shadow Attorney General. Country Labor notes its severe concerns with the proposed Religious Freedom Bill exposure draft.**

8.12. Port Macquarie Branch  
Country Labor Conference supports:  
- pill testing being undertaken at Music Festivals as occurs in Europe.  
- That the strip searching of minors definitely does not occur without the presence of the parents.  

**Recommendation: Support In Principle and Note.**  
Country Labor supports an evidence-based approach including a limited medically supervised trial of pill testing at selected music festivals.

8.13. Camden Haven Branch  
That a Federal Criminal Review Commission (CRC) be established and be adequately funded by the Federal Government to review criminal cases by a committee of independent lawyers, judges, and other professionals (e.g. medical practitioners, DNA Experts, etc.) where the person charged wants to appeal their conviction and subject to the facts of the review, if there is compelling evidence to suggest that the person has been wrongly convicted, the CRC should recommend that the case be lodged without delay in the appropriate Appeals Court to overturn the conviction and all costs incurred in the review of the case should be paid by the CRC and not by the convicted person, and the CRC should also have the power to determine the amount of compensation payable to persons wrongly convicted of crimes.  

**Recommendation: Note and refer to Shadow Attorney General.**

Country Labor Conference calls for a fresh look at resettlement policy including engaging willing Local Government partners to resettle groups of families, from the same language and religion types, in rural and regional communities at a sufficient level for each family to be able to provide collocated families with support but in small enough numbers that rural communities can cope with providing support to families. Packages might include:  
- Two additional nurses for the community (one with language skills whose role will be partly community outreach)  
- Two additional primary school teachers and two additional secondary school teachers for the community (for the duration of schooling for children brought into the community) (one of each type of teacher to possess relevant language skills and to engage in community outreach)  
- Additional public housing funding offered to receiving communities in addition to housing guaranteed for refugee families.
If housing families across a couple of close by rural towns, establish a Commonwealth Government hub at local Department of Human Services office containing at least one Tax Official, at least one Immigration Officer and at least one language specialist from DHS, the ATO or DIBP to support the whole hub.

**Recommendation: Support In Principle.**

8.15. **Jerrabomberra Googong Branch**

Country Labor Conference condemns the Berejiklian Government’s decision to privatise the provision of prison services to New South Wales.

**Recommendation: Support.** The private sector has played a role in prisons since 1993, and the provision of prison services will be provided by a mix of private and public providers for the foreseeable future. However the Berejiklian Government’s policy of privatising prisons is ideologically driven. The SPLP believe decisions regarding privatisation of prisons should be made on a case by case basis where safety, rehabilitation and employment standards can be assured.

8.16. **Jerrabomberra Googong Branch**

**Lithgow Branch**

Country Labor Conference wholeheartedly support’s retaining visa processing services (unprivatised) in the Department of Border Protection and urges the FPLP to continue the fight against privatising this essential service.

**Recommendation: Support.**

8.17. **Jerrabomberra Googong Branch**

**Lithgow Branch**

Country Labor Conference supports for the #YourRightToKnow campaign undertaken by news and media organisations.

**Recommendation: Support.**

8.18. **Lithgow Branch**

**Bathurst SEC**

Country Labor Conference encourages an incoming State Labor Government to engage in a whole-of-Government Review of racial engagement with a view to exposing any remaining institutional racism in any part of the Government. Racism would be constituted by difficulties in accessing Government services; decisions, on a per capita basis, significantly going against distinct ethnic groups; failure of Government bureaucracy to support minority racial groups in the same way of supporting other larger communities.

**Recommendation: Support In Principle.**

8.19. **Lithgow Branch**

Country Labor Conference urges our Shadow Immigration Minister to develop new refugee processing and resettlement policy using the following as suggestions as a centrepiece for the next time Labor forms Government:

- Undertaking a wholesale Review of global push factors and Australia’s role (direct or indirect, explicitly or tacitly endorsed) in creating or exacerbating these push factors.
  - Review should be an eminent person’s review including people with extensive experience in Foreign Affairs, Trade, Agriculture, Infrastructure, Defence.
  - While the whole of the Review would probably contain information subject to national security exemptions from Freedom of Information; best efforts should be made to publicly release at least an Executive Summary which provides a high-level overview of where push factors are present globally.

- Labor agreeing to engage the United Nations in a long-term discussion about developing and implementing a regional processing arrangement whereby:
  - Eight regional processing camps are established globally
  - Some arrangement with host countries is reached whereby camp residents can, either within the camps and/or externally from the camps, engage in productive employment in order to sustain themselves and their families and maintain qualifications and experience
  - Broadly provisions be made for operating a temporary but fully integrated society for camp residents

- Labor seek willing Local Government partners to resettle groups of families, from the same language and religion types, in rural and regional communities at a sufficient level for each family to be able to provide collocated families with support but in small enough numbers that rural communities can cope with providing support to families. Packages might include:
  - Two additional nurses for the community (one with language skills whose role will be partly community outreach)
  - Two additional primary school teachers and two additional secondary school teachers for the community (for the duration of schooling for children brought into the community) (one of each type of teacher to possess relevant language skills and to engage in community outreach)
8.20. Lithgow Branch

Country Labor Conference demands an incoming Labor Attorney-General call for and properly fund an Inquiry into New South Wales Police, Policing and Police powers with a view to ensuring:

- NSW Police is appropriately staffed and present across New South Wales
- NSW Police has sufficient power to protect the community but insufficient power to dominate communities and vulnerable members of our society
- NSW Police are not engaging in abuse of powers which they might have at the time of the calling of the Review
- Removing unnecessary power held by NSW Police
- The culture of NSW Police is one which achieves the aims of protecting the community while not dominating communities and vulnerable members of our society
- Policing is not reliant on or engaged in profiling of individuals such as to target specific people or groups on any attributes, but particularly gender, sexuality, ability or disability, race or socioeconomic background
- The Law Enforcement Conduct Commission is recurrently funded sufficiently to address community complaints and concerns about NSW Police

Recommendation: Note and refer to Shadow Attorney General.

8.21. Lithgow Branch

Country Labor Conference urges an incoming Labor Attorney-General to review the state of policing in the Australian Federal Police with particular reference to self-regulation rather than an external body holding responsibility for conducting investigations into complaints about conduct of the Australian Police; it is time to provide the community with greater confidence in policing and increasing governance in investigations into Police conduct would be a helpful change for the community.

Recommendation: Support In Principle and refer to Shadow Attorney General.

8.22. Lithgow Branch

Country Labor Conference expresses grave concerns about proposals by the Morrison government to outlaw secondary boycotts against environmental protests which currently are protected under s45 & 46 of the Trade Practices Act.

We call on Australian Labor to commit to retain the protection of environmental secondary boycotts under the Act and repeal those sections which outlaw secondary boycotts by trade unions.

Recommendation: Support.

8.23. Lithgow Branch

Country Labor Conference condemns the Berejiklian Government for centralising prisons; reducing the numbers of rural and regional corrective services facilities; and, decreasing accessibility of prisoners to their rural, regional and remote families.

Recommendation: Support. The Government's prison closures and resulting job losses will have a devastating impact on the small regional economies where they are located.

8.24. Lithgow Branch

Country Labor Conference expresses grave concerns about proposals by the Morrison government to outlaw secondary boycotts which currently are protected under s45 & 46 of the Trade Practices Act.

We call on Australian Labor to commit to retain the protection of environmental secondary boycotts under the Act and repeal those sections which outlaw secondary boycotts by trade unions.

Recommendation: Support.

8.25. Bathurst SEC

Country Labor Conference urges State and National Conferences to re-emphasise Labor’s commitment to reducing inequality and disadvantage.

Recommendation: Support.