Country Conference 2014
Standing up for Country NSW

Friday 31 Oct – Sunday 2 Nov 2014 | Bicentennial Hall, 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan

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MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Thank you for attending the 2014 Country Labor Conference in Queanbeyan.

Country Labor has a proud reputation of standing up for country NSW. As we campaign for next year’s election we have a chance to show the failure of the Nationals and Liberals to deliver for country NSW while they have been in government.

Only Labor will put the people of NSW first. Only John Robertson and Labor will stand up to Mike Baird and Tony Abbott’s cuts to health, education and other vital public services. Only Country Labor will stand up for country NSW, protecting local jobs and services, and opposing the sale of electricity poles and wires.

I am very proud of the high quality of local, Country Labor candidates we have endorsed for next year’s state election. We have reached our goal of pre-selecting candidates earlier, enabling more time for candidates to build strong local profiles.

We have also continued to reform NSW and Country Labor. At this year’s State Conference, there were many significant reforms that were debated and adopted:

✓ Giving members a greater say by introducing direct election of the NSW Parliamentary Leader;
✓ The establishment of a ban on CSG mining in the Northern Rivers Region if NSW Labor is elected in 2015;
✓ Strengthening community engagement by enshrining Community Selection Ballots in our rules; and
✓ Establishing geographic representation on the Policy Forum to ensure every country area will be represented.

Country Labor held its first ever community preselection in Ballina in September. It was a great success with over 2,300 people participating – more than in the Newtown or Campbelltown community preselections that were held earlier this year.

I look forward to continuing to build on these achievements for Country Labor and NSW Labor with your support.

Jamie Clements
GENERAL SECRETARY
MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY ORGANISER

Thank you for joining us at Country Conference. Country Conference remains one of the highlights of the Country Labor calendar in NSW.

This Country Conference will be in our new 3 day format, after the successful trial in 2012 in Cessnock. This includes a full day country-specific training seminar, as well as the policy workshops which proved very popular in 2012.

There will still be general Conference proceedings which will take place on Sunday and will include a report back from the policy workshops. On the next two pages is a detailed agenda for the extended 3 day conference.

The policy workshops allow for a contemporary approach to policy challenges as we build beyond 2015 and develop policy that doesn’t just end at this year’s Country Conference. This year’s policy workshops will be on health, education, regional development and jobs and NDIS and ageing.

For each policy workshop, we have assembled a panel of speakers from industry and community groups, unions and academics. Delegates will have the opportunity to gain a comprehensive briefing on the current policy challenges, before having a detailed discussion and drafting motions to report back to the entire Conference.

Further, delegates can then report back to their local branches about these key policy issues and continue to develop policies at a local level.

After feedback from our 2012 Country Conference, the policy workshops will be held twice, with a morning session and an afternoon session. This will allow delegates and party members to attend two separate policy workshops through the day.

We will also be offering a one-day Campaign Insight training course at Country Conference. All delegates are invited to participate in a one-day country-specific training seminar for candidates and local campaign teams, which will include the latest techniques and strategies for campaigning in rural and regional NSW.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Country Labor and especially thank you to all delegates and members who travelled far distances to attend this year’s Country Conference. We hope you enjoy the weekend.

Courtney Roche
COUNTRY ORGANISER
## PROGRAM

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<tr>
<td><strong>FRIDAY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9am - 4pm</td>
<td><strong>Country Conference (Optional Day)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>A one-day country-specific training seminar for candidates and local campaign teams, which will include the latest strategies and techniques for campaigning in rural and regional NSW.</td>
<td>RB Smith Community Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.30pm - 8pm</td>
<td><strong>Welcome Barbecue with Bill Shorten MP, Federal Labor Leader</strong></td>
<td>Walsh’s Pub, 40-48 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan</td>
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<td><strong>SATURDAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>Country Conference</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td><strong>Official Opening of Country Conference</strong></td>
<td>Bicentennial Hall</td>
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<td>Welcome to Country by members of the local Ngambr community</td>
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<td>Welcome to Queanbeyan: Labor Councillor Brian Brown</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Opening of Conference: The Hon. Steve Whan, MLC, Shadow Minister for Police, Shadow Minister for Resources and Primary Industries, Shadow Minister for Tourism Major Events Hospitality and Racing, and Shadow Minister for Rural Water and Country Labor Candidate for Monaro</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Unions NSW Secretary &amp; NSW Labor President, Mark Lennon</td>
<td>Bicentennial Hall</td>
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<td>10am</td>
<td><strong>Leaders’ Address:</strong></td>
<td>Bicentennial Hall</td>
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<td>John Robertson MP, Leader of the NSW Opposition</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30am – 1.30pm</td>
<td><strong>Policy Workshops</strong> (morning session)</td>
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<td>Health</td>
<td>RB Smith Community Centre, Jim Snow Room</td>
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<td>– The State of Healthcare Services in Country NSW</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>Masonic Hall</td>
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<td>– Where to Next? Gonski and Beyond</td>
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<td>Regional Development and Jobs</td>
<td>Bicentennial Hall</td>
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<td>– Challenges, Opportunities and Building a Plan for the Future</td>
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<td><strong>NDIS and Ageing</strong></td>
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<td>– Provision of Aged Care Services in Country NSW and the NDIS roll-out</td>
<td>RB Smith Community Centre, Harry Hesse Room</td>
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<td>1.30pm – 2.30pm</td>
<td><strong>LUNCH BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>2.30pm – 5.30pm</td>
<td><strong>Policy Workshops</strong> (afternoon session)</td>
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<td>Health</td>
<td>RB Smith Community Centre, Jim Snow Room</td>
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<td><strong>NDIS and Ageing</strong></td>
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<td>– Provision of aged care services in Country NSW &amp; the NDIS roll-out</td>
<td>RB Smith Community Centre, Harry Hesse Room</td>
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<td>6.30pm</td>
<td><strong>Conference Dinner</strong></td>
<td>Bicentennial Hall</td>
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<td>Includes presentation of Bluey Rodwell Award &amp; John Faulkner Trivia</td>
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## PROGRAM

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<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>Country Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>9am-9.45am</td>
<td>Debate: Health</td>
<td>Bicentennial Hall</td>
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<td>9.45am-10.30am</td>
<td>Debate: Rules &amp; Administration</td>
<td>Bicentennial Hall</td>
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<td>10.30am-11.15am</td>
<td>Debate: Regional Development &amp; Jobs</td>
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<td>11.15am-12pm</td>
<td>Debate: Education</td>
<td>Bicentennial Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>12pm-12.45pm</td>
<td>Debate: NDIS &amp; Ageing</td>
<td>Bicentennial Hall</td>
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<td>12.45pm-1.30pm</td>
<td>Debate: Other Policy areas</td>
<td>Bicentennial Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.30pm-1.45pm</td>
<td>Concluding remarks</td>
<td>Bicentennial Hall</td>
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POLICY WORKSHOPS OUTLINE

HEALTH: THE STATE OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN COUNTRY NSW

Venue: RB Smith Community Centre, Jim Snow Room
Speakers: Dr. Emma Cunningham, Rural Doctor’s Association; Matthew Doherty, NSW Nurses Association
Chair: Hon. Walt Secord, NSW Shadow Minister for Health (morning); Stephen Jones MP, Shadow Assistant Minister for Health (afternoon)

Possible items for discussion
- Access to services
- Impact of co-payment
- Access to mental health services in rural areas
- Success of GP Superclinics
- Community and Indigenous health services

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT & JOBS: CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND BUILDING A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Venue: Bicentennial Hall
Speakers: Justin Crosby, NSW Farmer’s Association; Professor Barbara Norman, University of Canberra
Chair: Hon. Mick Veitch, Shadow Minister for Regional and Rural Affairs

Possible items for discussion
- Employment generation
- Impact of climate change
- Developing sustainable communities
- Role of Agricultural sector
- Sustainable farming
- Training opportunities
- IR in the bush

NDIS & AGEING: PROVISION OF AGED CARE SERVICES IN COUNTRY NSW AND THE NDIS ROLL-OUT

Venue: RB Smith Community Centre, Harry Hesse Room
Speakers: Madonna Oliver, Adviser to Shayne Neumann, Shadow Minister for Ageing; John Ronan, Adviser to Senator Helen Polley, Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Aged Care
Chair: Kate Washington, Health Lawyer, NDIS activist and Labor Candidate for Port Stephens

Possible items for discussion
- Progress of NDIS
- Aged care facilities in country areas
- Role of Non-Government Organisations
- Privatisation
- Staffing and skill requirements

EDUCATION: WHERE TO NEXT? GONSKI AND BEYOND

Venue: Masonic Hall
Speakers: Maurie Mulheron, President, NSW Teacher’s Association; Lyn Caton, Independent Teacher’s Union
Chair: Senator Deb O’Neill

Possible items for discussion
- Schools funding
- TAFE and training opportunities
- Tertiary education and accessibility
- Regional Universities
- Disability learning support
HOW POLICY WORKSHOPS WILL RUN AT COUNTRY CONFERENCE

The policy workshop format was first trialled in 2012 and this year, we will be extending the policy workshops into two sessions: a morning and afternoon session. This allows delegates to attend two separate workshops throughout the day. Each workshop will discuss, in detail, a contemporary policy challenge for country NSW.

The stakeholder panels consist of policy experts, unions, industry and community groups and are designed to provide delegates with detailed policy information before discussing and developing motions to address these challenges.

The workshops will be structured as follows:
- The exact timing will be at the discretion of the Chair, in consultation with the attendees.
- Motions passed in the workshops will be presented to Conference during the Sunday morning debates.
- Motions that are not endorsed by the workshops can also be submitted for consideration by the Country Conference as a whole, provided they are submitted to the Chair by 7pm on Saturday.
- The Rules of Debate in the Policy Workshops shall be in accordance with Schedule H of the ALP Rules (that is, the same Rules of Debate that apply to Branch meetings).

If you have any questions about the Policy Workshops, speak to the help desk in the foyer of Bicentennial Hall.

1 hour for panellists
- Each panellist presents for 5-10 minutes
- Question and answer session with the panellists present

2 hours for discussion by delegates
- Delegates can move motions and discuss the panellists presentations
NB: This structure will be for both the morning and afternoon sessions
HOW AGENDA WORKS AT COUNTRY CONFERENCE

a. The Agenda Order will be determined by the Country Labor Policy Caucus Executive in consultation with the General Secretary and the Party Officers.

b. Where possible, the Agenda Order will proceed as per the published Conference Program in the Conference Agenda.

c. Both the Debates and Policy Workshop Report Backs will be dealt with in the same manner as Policy Reports are presented at the Annual State Conference.

d. Each Debate and Policy Workshop Report Backs will be moved/seconded as they stand in the Conference Agenda, ie. All recommendations will be taken as moved and will replace original items where appropriate.

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

f. Speakers can move amendments to the report, which may change individual items or recommendations.

g. The Standing Orders will apply, with 45 minutes for each Policy Workshop Report back 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 to have 5 minutes and each succeeding speaker 3 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 Chairperson shall have precedence in speaking.

d. Delegates addressing the Conference shall direct their remarks to the Chairperson and remain standing. Delegates shall not use any provocative or discourteous expressions which are calculated to disturb the peaceful current of the 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 7pm on Saturday night.

f. When a motion has been moved and seconded the Chairperson 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 the suspension of the Standing Orders to discuss a definite matter of urgency not included in the Agenda paper, provided that only one such suspension of the Standing Orders shall be allowed each day. Such a motion must be handed to the Chairperson 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 3 minutes.

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

j. Any delegate called to order 3 times during one session may, by direction of the Chairperson, 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 Chairperson 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 Chairperson.

m. Non-delegates must be seated in a separate area of the hall.

n. There is NO SMOKING in the hall.
MEMBERS OF COUNTRY LABOR COMMITTEE

BRYCE WILSON (CHAIR)
Queanbeyan Branch
Bryce was born in the Kimberley of Western Australia and grew up in the irrigation town of Griffith in the Riverina. After completing the HSC at the local High School, Bryce completed his Surveyor training at TAFE in Sydney before returning to Griffith to work for the 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 the 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 and was elected to State Policy Forum where he is currently co-chair of the Growth in the Regions Policy Commission. Bryce now lives in Queanbeyan and is President of the local Branch and the local P&C.

MATT MARTIN
(DEPUTY CHAIR)
Lithgow Branch
Matt Martin joined Lithgow branch of ALP when he was 15. He’s served in various positions including Secretary Lithgow branch, President of and delegate to Macquarie FEC, 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.

JOSEPHINE HILLARD
(SECRETARY)
Tamworth Branch
Josephine was born in Armidale and grew up in Gunnedah. She finished her schooling in Tamworth where she subsequently joined the Party. After completing school, Josephine worked in a small local law firm as a secretary to a number of solicitors, assisting in various criminal and family law legal aid cases. Josephine studied a Bachelor of Criminology at the University of New England and it was during this time Josephine set up the Labor Students Club at UNE. Josephine has worked on a number of campaigns in her local area, from Local Government elections in Armidale to the Northern Tablelands by-election and various other state and federal elections. Josephine has served as Tamworth branch secretary and has been a delegate to her local SEC and FEC for a number of years. Josephine is also a second-generation member of the Edgeroi Branch of the Country Women’s Association. This year, Josephine has served as Acting Country Organiser while Courtney Roche has been on maternity leave.

MARION BROWN
Broken Hill Branch
Marion is a long-term member of the Labor Party. Marion is currently 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 locally and he 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 door-knocking Reece decided to join the ALP and volunteer on her re-election. Since then Reece has proudly stood up for Labor values and ran as an ALP candidate both in the 2011 State Election and 2012 Local Government Election. In 2012 Reece helped form the Banora Point Branch ALP and continues to serve as its Secretary and is the current Secretary of the Richmond FEC.

CASS COLEMAN
Lithgow Branch
Cass has lived in the Bathurst region for over 30 years. She was born in Lithgow and is now raising her family in nearby Portland. Cass has been heavily involved with her local community for many years helping to establish the Ginndaaay Youth Centre in Portland and is also a long-term member of her local Country Women’s Association. Cass has a strong union background and is currently Senior Vice President of the Public Service Association. Cass has held various Party positions including President of the Bathurst State Electoral Council and is standing as the Country Labor candidate for Bathurst at the 2015 State Election.

SUE FLETCHER
Tumbarumba Branch
Sue was born and raised in Hurstville in Sydney’s southern suburbs. She did a science degree at the University of NSW, then taught high school science for 18 years in Australia, Singapore and the United States. She then moved into work in financial and student administration at three Universities. After retirement, Sue moved to the Riverina area, started a Landcare group and joined the Labor Party. She organised the opening of a new branch of the party and held the position of Secretary for many years. In 2008 she was elected to the local Council and is currently serving a second term as a Councillor. She has served on the Country Labor Committee for several years and was recently elected as President of the Riverina FEC.

VERONICA HUSTED
Jervis Bay Branch
Veronica joined the ALP in 1980 while working as an official with the then Federated Clerks Union and living in West Ryde. She was asked by the ALP to contest the Federal seat of Dundas in 1987, then moved to the South Coast village of Sanctuary Point in the Shoalhaven LGA. Veronica helped to form the Jervis Bay/St. Georges Basin Branch of the Party, which was established in 1996 after the defeat of the Keating Government. Veronica has represented the Party at Country, State and National Conferences since that time and has been a Branch Secretary and President and has held SEC and FEC executive positions ever since moving to the South Coast in 1989.

CARMEL COOK
Lismore Branch
Carmel joined the Party in 1986 and currently serves as the Secretary of Lismore SEC. Carmel has been to every Country Conference for the past 20 years and has been a delegate to Conference for 19 years. She worked for Janelle Saffin MP and is also a Life Member of United Voice.
JOE KNAGGE  
Dubbo Branch  
Joe is an IT Manager with the NSW Department of Education & Communities and as part of his job travels extensively throughout Western NSW. He is a past president of Dubbo Chamber of Commerce, a Rotarian, and 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 an ALP member for 18 years and is President of the Orana ALP Branch and Parkes FEC. He has twice been the Country Labor candidate for the Federal Seat of Parkes 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 6 years.

MICK LAWLER  
Tamworth Branch  
Mick has been a member of the Party for over 40 years and this year was awarded life membership. In that time he has held various positions in his branch, which is now Tamworth. Mick first stood on Polling Booths in 1969 for the ALP and for Gough Whitlam at Warringah, as he lived in Sydney at the time. Mick became a member of the Building Workers Industrial Union and became a Delegate at about that time. In 1980, Mick became a Union Official for the BWIU and was one in the amalgamated Union the CFMEU until 2009. Mick represented the ALP in two Tamworth Local Government Elections (unsuccessfully) 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 and looks forward to continuing the struggle into the future. Mick continues to live in Tamworth with his wife Rhonda, who is very forgiving.

NOEL MARTIN  
Raymond Terrace Branch  
Noel joined the 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 about 1996/7. Noel was appointed an organiser with the Municipal Employees Union in 1997 and promoted to Northern Industrial Officer in 1999. Currently Noel is the Northern Industrial Officer for the United Services Union.

ASREN PUGH  
Byron Bay Branch  
Asren joined the Labor Party over 12 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 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 ALP’s history of implementing policies that look after both people and the environment.

NARELLE RICH  
Port Macquarie Branch  
Narelle Rich grew up in Wellington NSW and is a lifelong Unionist, formerly with the SDA, while working as a shop assistant during her high school years and with the MEU and USU during her formal employment. Narelle moved from Wellington to Port Macquarie in September 2007 to take up the position of Organiser in the Port Macquarie Office of the United Services Union. Narelle is currently acting in the position of Acting Training and Educative Services Officer with the Union, a position she enjoys immensely. Narelle has held the following positions within the Party, Vice President of the Port Macquarie Branch; President since 2009; Secretary of the Lyne FEC and Port Macquarie SEC; delegate to Country Conference, State Conference and National Conference. Narelle has worked on various Campaigns at a local, state and federal level, as well as coordinating many Campaigns in her position with the Union.
CHRISTINE ROBERTSON
Lower Clarence Branch
Christine has lived most of her life in country NSW and lived in Duri near Tamworth for thirty 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 ALP ticket in 2003. She has served as Secretary and President of the Tamworth Branch of Country Labor 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.

JAY SUVAAL
Cessnock Branch
Jay joined the ALP in 2007 to support the campaign against WorkChoices. Since then he has become the Secretary of Cessnock Branch and Cessnock SEC as well as the Assistant Secretary of the Hunter FEC and an executive member of NSW and Australian Young Labor. Jay has had the opportunity to work in both the private sector and for Labor Members of Parliament and he is passionate about making sure that everyone, no matter where they live, has the same opportunity to work. Aside from politics, Jay plays hockey and enjoys travelling and camping in regional Australia.

DARRIEA TURLEY
Broken Hill Branch
Darriea has worked and volunteered in health and welfare for over 30 years and is a long-term member of the Party. She is also a Labor Councillor on Broken Hill Council. Darriea 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 in the same 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 Party in 1996, and has worked as an organizer for the SDA across NSW in both country and city areas for the last 16 years. Mariusz’s parents’ were active in the trade union movement in Poland, and, after migrating with them to Australia, Mariusz had a keen interest in social justice and workers’ rights. Mariusz lives in Coffs Harbour with his wife Rae and his 3 children. He enjoys playing a variety of sports including rugby union where he is also the President of his local club.
RURAL 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 co-operation 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 National 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.

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.

**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.
- Maximise 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 J

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; and
   (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 40% of a union’s delegation to the Country Labor Conference must be women, and not less than 40% must be men (“the minimum representation”). Provided that if the level of male or female membership of a union is less than 40%, 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. The Executive
   (a) The Executive of Country Labor is responsible for the management and administration of Country Labor in between meetings of Country Labor Conference. This provision is subject to 5(a).
   (b) The Executive consists of the members of the Country Labor Committee and the NSW ALP Party Officers.
   (c) The spokesperson for Country Labor is the Chair of the Country Labor Committee.
   (d) 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 Officers.
   (e) A meeting of the Executive can only take place when a quorum of at least nine members, including at least one NSW ALP Party Officer are present.
   (f) The Executive shall adopt procedures to facilitate the business of Country Labor.

5. Country Labor Committee
   (a) The Country Labor Committee consists of:
      (i) A Chair;
      (ii) A Deputy Chair;
      (iii) A Secretary; and
      (iv) Fifteen members.
   (b) The Chair, Deputy Chair and Secretary are the Country Labor Committee Executive.
   (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.
   (e) 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.
   (f) 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 ALP NSW Branch Administrative Committee and shall be responsible to that body.
   (b) 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.
   (iv) Statements concerning policy should only be made after authorisation by the NSW ALP Administrative Committee.
   (v) Advance notification shall be given to the NSW ALP General Secretary of all media statements, publications and campaign activities by Country Labor.
   (c) Any member of the NSW ALP Administrative Committee may attend and speak at the Country Labor Conference or Executive meetings, but shall not vote unless a delegate to that Conference or a member of the Executive.
   (d) Unless otherwise specifically stated in this Constitution, the Rules of the Australian Labor Party – NSW Branch shall apply in all matters concerning Country Labor.
   (e) 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.
HEALTH

1. NSW YOUNG LABOR
Enhancing service delivery and capacity of e-Health
E-Health is a personally controlled record and secure online summary of your health information – able to be accessed online whenever a patient or healthcare provider needs it, wherever they are.

The e-Health system was rolled out nationally in July 2012 under the Federal Labor Government, allowing people seeking health care in Australia to register for an e-Health record. This was the first step in the development of the e-Health record system, which is being built up in carefully managed stages.

Information stored in the record includes a patient's medications, hospital Discharge Summaries, allergies, immunisations and other clinical documentation; organ donation details, Medicare and pharmaceutical benefits information – avoiding errors and unnecessary repetition of basic details with each new specialist. Patients can also enter information in the personal health summary or personal health notes section of e-Health record. Individuals control what goes into the record, and who is allowed to access it.

Labor implemented this initiative with the view to e-Health record potential being significantly built upon over time. As Healthcare Provider Organisations upgrade their clinical software so that it can communicate with the e-Health record system, doctors can add more information, including specialist and referral letters, nurses and other healthcare providers involved in health care. It will allow doctors to enter information about consultations and treatment, including any family medical history provided.

An e-Health record allows a patient and their doctors, hospitals and other healthcare providers to view and share health information (with an individual's consent) to provide individuals with the best, most informed care. An initiative like e-Health revolutionises healthcare in Australia using technology and must be continued and expanded to give people more control over their health information than ever before, placing individuals and faster, safer, easier patient care at the centre of Australia’s health system.

Country Labor supports the integration of e-Health into Australia’s healthcare system. It acknowledges the higher autonomy given to individuals in using and controlling their health information and the benefits this has in facilitating a faster, safer, easier and more efficient patient-care model in Australia’s health system.

Country Labor supports regional centres, including small and remote regional communities, having an acceptable standard of immediate medical care, including 24 hour emergency beds.

Recommendation: Support.

2. NSW YOUNG LABOR
Regional Healthcare
A major mistake made when budgeting for healthcare in regional areas is that regional healthcare needs are equal to the kinds of doctor numbers in metropolitan areas or larger regional centres. When it comes to small or remote regional towns, however, the provision of serviceable emergency beds is more than an optional extra – it’s a matter of life and death, as most of the time the distance to a doctor doubles to hours or more of waiting. In the past, budget cuts and hospital closures in regional towns have left entire communities without reasonable access to medical services.

It's on these grounds that changes in funding should only follow meaningful consultation with local communities.

Country Labor supports regional centres, including small and remote regional communities, having an acceptable standard of immediate medical care, including 24 hour emergency beds.

Country Labor will only undertake funding reviews of regional healthcare centres after meaningful consultation with local communities when in government.

Country Labor will fight the Nationals and Liberals when they cut funding and access to affordable healthcare in regional areas.

Recommendation: Support and amend motion to remove ‘including 24 hour emergency beds’.

3. NSW YOUNG LABOR
Rural and Regional Health Promotion – Fighting Abbott’s Cuts
In the 2014-2015 Federal Government’s Budget, the funding for the rural and regional health scheme introduced by the Gillard Government known as ‘Medicare Locals’ was cut, removing 61 local health professionals assisting in the provision of healthcare in rural and regional areas.

Country Labor calls on the Federal and State Governments to instead embrace investment into bringing health records into the digital age. It calls on them to better assist health professionals, providers and local health districts in implementing the new technical and administrative processes needed; and better promote the new system to patients to sign up to and make use of the range of benefits e-Health provides to individuals, healthcare providers and our health system.

Recommendation: Support.
The Federal Government has replaced the Medicare Locals project with much smaller and fewer ‘Primary Health Networks’, which will be inactive for a significant period of time whilst they are set up. These networks also do not cater for health promotion and disease prevention as Medicare Locals did.

Without these professionals providing for health promotion, the awareness of healthy living and healthy practices will likely deteriorate. Access to health promotion is vital in rural and regional areas, in particular areas with high rates of low socio-economic status backgrounds, and areas of high indigenous populations.

Country Labor condemns the Federal Government’s cut of the Medicare Locals project.

Country Labor acknowledges the need for greater health promotion in rural and regional areas.

Country Labor will run campaigns in rural and regional areas on the importance of bringing back a system of viable health promotion.

The NSW Country Labor Organiser will work with the NSW Labor and NSW Young Labor to help develop policy on providing health promotion in rural and regional areas of NSW, with particular focus on young Australians.

**Recommendation: Support. Country Labor welcomes Young Labor’s support in this campaign.**

4. **NSW YOUNG LABOR**

**Youth Mental Health**

Youth mental health is a particularly prevalent issue in our society. Access to adequate mental health services can often make a large difference in ensuring that a young person with a mental health issue is properly diagnosed and provided with the care and treatment that they require. Access to appropriate services can in some severe cases even be a method for the prevention of youth suicide.

In rural and regional areas, access to adequate mental health services is often limited when compared to the range of services available in metropolitan areas. Young people often have to travel long distances to get access to the services that they may be in desperate need of. Adequate access to mental health services can be a life and death situation for a young person with a mental health condition, and providing these services in rural and regional areas must be a top priority.

Services such as Headspace, and increasing the number of counsellors available in community health centres has helped in this area, but more can and must be done to ensure that our young people are able to get the mental health care and treatment that many are in desperate need of.

Country Labor acknowledges that the provision of mental health services to young people in rural and regional areas should be a top priority for health policy.

Country Labor believes that the provision of adequate mental health services is the key to preventing youth suicide in regional areas.

Country Labor notes the benefits of projects such as Headspace, but believes that more needs to be done to ensure that the access to mental health services for young people in rural and regional areas is adequately provided for.

Country Labor will develop strategies for the further provision of mental health services and resources for young people in rural and regional areas.

Country Labor will hold a joint hosted forum with NSW Young Labor to discuss ways in which mental health services can be improved in rural and regional areas.

**Recommendation: Support. Conference welcomes Young Labor’s support to organise such an event.**

5. **QUEANBEYAN BRANCH**

a) That Country Conference condemns the Liberal-National Government’s plan to introduce a Medicare co-payment. Country Labor strongly opposes any such move and fully supports and endorses the NSW and Federal Labor opposition to any such move.

b) That Country Conference condemns the cuts to health funding by the Liberal-National Government, both at the State and Federal level. Cuts to health funding will devastate regional communities and already struggling hospitals. It will have a significant impact on health outcomes for people in regional NSW.

**Recommendation: Support.**

6. **TWEED COAST BRANCH**

Country Conference:

1. Condemns the attack on North Coast health services by both the State and Federal conservative governments;

2. Opposes the introduction of paid parking at Tweed Hospital and opposes the privatisation of health services by the State Liberal-National Government on the North Coast – particularly wards duties, cleaning, security, linen services, waste management, pest control, portaging, courier duties and materials management;

3. Expresses alarm at the budget cuts by the Federal Abbott Government resulting in the removal of almost $30 million in services and cost-shifting on the North Coast; and

4. Seeks assurances that the new Byron Bay Hospital is a public hospital and notes that a public private partnership arrangement is unacceptable.

**Recommendation: Support and recognize there are similar issues across Country NSW. Country Labor also reaffirms its opposition to privatise any public hospital.**
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS

7. ARMIDALE BRANCH
That Country Conference calls on Federal Labor to renew its commitment to the renewable energy targets and foster more investment in renewable energy.

Recommendation: Support.

8. ARMIDALE BRANCH
That the ALP moves to a total ban on Coal Seam Gas mining, including exploration, and invest in renewable energies.

Recommendation: Reject. Country Conference notes NSW Labor’s policy that Coal Seam Gas projects should not be able to proceed until independent scientific research provides conclusive evidence that expansion of the industry will not damage our precious water resources or compromise the state’s food security.

9. BROKEN HILL BRANCH
Libraries in Country Communities
That the importance of libraries as vital social, community and informational hubs—particularly for country communities—be reaffirmed. That the State Government be asked to take equal responsibility for the funding of libraries with Local Government.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

10. BYRON BAY BRANCH
That Country Conference:
1. Notes that:
   a. On the NSW North Coast there is overwhelming community opposition to Coal Seam Gas and unconventional gas mining;
   b. The community’s concerns relate to the harmful effects of CSG and unconventional gas mining on water quality, farmlands, the environment, communities, residents’ health, and tourism;
   c. The CSG industry has no social licence to operate on the NSW North Coast;
   d. The NSW North Coast has unique environmental qualities; and
   e. CSG is incompatible with the North Coast’s important employment sectors including tourism and agriculture.
2. Is called upon to condemn the NSW Liberal-National Party Government’s pro-CSG fracking, drilling and expansion agenda on the NSW North Coast; and
3. Calls on the NSW Labor Party to:
   a. Support an immediate moratorium on all CSG and other unconventional gas activities and licences within the Boundaries of the State Parliamentary seats of Lismore, Ballina, Clarence and Tweed be ‘CSG Free’ and therefore be off limits to the CSG industry;
   b. Support a declaration that the State Parliamentary seats of Lismore, Ballina, Clarence and Tweed be ‘CSG Free ’ and therefore be off limits to the CSG industry.

Recommendation: Support and note the Urgency debate at the 2014 NSW Labor Annual State Conference on this issue.

11. COWPER FEC
Country Conference calls on an incoming NSW Labor Government to review the Recreation Fishing Havens declarations with a view to extending these to more coastal estuaries to promote tourism and healthier fish breeding habitats generally.

Recommendation: Support in principle and refer to motion 34.

12. CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION (NSW BRANCH) CONSTRUCTION AND GENERAL DIVISION
Country Conference calls for Labor to commit to ensuring that local spending means local jobs.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

13. CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION (NSW BRANCH) CONSTRUCTION AND GENERAL DIVISION
Country Conference calls upon NSW Labor to ensure that procurers and their contractors do not obtain dumped and unfairly subsidised product where there is an Australian industry that could supply the product.

Recommendation: Support in principle. Country Conference notes the NSW Opposition Leader announced in July NSW Labor’s commitment to introduce the Local Jobs First policy to prioritise locally sourced content.

14. CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION (NSW BRANCH) CONSTRUCTION AND GENERAL DIVISION
Fly in fly out (FIFO) arrangements have become an increasing feature of employment, particularly in the
resource sector. It has for some provided access to employment opportunities not otherwise available. However there are growing examples of the downside to FIFO, including FIFO workers displacing local workers, even in major regional centres, putting pressure on community infrastructure and services, high rates of sexual abuse and loss of income to local business. For FIFO workers, family breakdowns, lack of choice of work arrangements and less choice to live locally with their family and longer shifts are becoming more prevalent. FIFO work practices should be last resort, local jobs and communities should prevail.

Recommendation: Support and remove reference to ‘high rates of sexual assault’.

15. CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION (NSW BRANCH) CONSTRUCTION AND GENERAL DIVISION

Country Conference is opposed to the re-establishment of the Australian Building and Construction Commission by the Abbott Government. We were disappointed that Labor failed to entirely abolish the Building and Construction Industry Improvement Act 2005 and retained the Australian Building and Construction Commission when it was in government.

The Building and Construction Industry Improvement Act 2005 (BCII Act), which was resisted by the ALP in opposition, represented the worst excesses of the former Howard Government’s WorkChoices agenda. Its resuscitation should be vigorously opposed and Labor should commit to repeal any legislation in the future.

Abbott’s laws render virtually all forms of industrial action unlawful and subject to massive fines against unions and individual workers. The ABCC will have unprecedented coercive powers to force people to answer questions under oath and provide information or documents about everyday industrial relations issues and gaol terms of up to 6 months for those who refuse to comply.

The retention of the ABCC is inconsistent with the principles and platform of the ALP and further that the International Labour Organisation’s Committee of Experts and Committee on Freedom of Association have also condemned these laws as inconsistent with International Conventions signed by Australia.

This repressive legislation has no place in Australian society, holding that the right to silence is a fundamental right and that no Australian citizen should be compelled to answer questions relating to industrial issues or discussions held at union meetings under threat of fines and/or gaol. Conference also rejects the imposition of fines against unions and workers for exercising their democratic right to withdraw labour. Building workers should not be treated differently from other workers.

Country Conference calls on the NSW State Labor to strongly lobby its federal counterpart to resist and when elected abolish these draconian laws.

Recommendation: Support.

16. CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION (NSW BRANCH) CONSTRUCTION AND GENERAL DIVISION

Country Conference calls for a review of the effectiveness of legislation, regulation and enforcement in relation to the safety regulatory system to ensure WorkCover is an active enforcer of safety laws so that high safety standards are restored.

Recommendation: Support.

17. CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION (NSW BRANCH) CONSTRUCTION AND GENERAL DIVISION

Country Conference calls upon a future NSW Labor Government to mandate the purchase of locally manufactured paper and tissue products (for all government internal usage and external printing contracts) for all NSW government departments, statutory authorities and agencies and NSW local government authorities in recognition of the positive environmental, social and economic contribution to the industry.

Recommendation: Support. Country Conference notes the NSW Opposition Leader announced in July NSW Labor’s commitment to introduce the Local Jobs First policy to prioritise locally sourced content.

18. CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION (NSW BRANCH) CONSTRUCTION AND GENERAL DIVISION

Country Conference calls on Labor to ensure that all government-funded projects require contractors to use active Labour Market Testing (LMT) to ensure that Australian citizens and permanent residents are given the opportunity to apply for jobs before applications for 457 visa workers can be approved.

Further Labor should seek to ensure that before any Regional Migration Agreement is applied for, all stakeholders including unions are consulted and a needs assessment undertaken, exploring other avenues for sourcing workers.

Recommendation: Support.

19. GOULBURN BRANCH

Country Conference thanks the State’s Shadow Minister for Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services; Regional and Rural Affairs Mick Veitch MLC for his support for the Southern Tablelands Rail Users’ Group
(STRUG) to gain a usable timetable for people living south of Exeter including the towns and villages surrounding Goulburn.

This is a long-awaited need for the people of Goulburn region needing to travel to and from Sydney for medical, professional and social appointments and the region including the Southern Highlands.

 Recommendation: Support.

20. GOULBURN BRANCH

The Country Conference wishes to acknowledge and thank Dr Sharman Stone for standing against the Federal Government’s short-sighted and shameful decision not to back SPC Ardmona’s contribution to the local economy of Goulburn Valley in Victoria. Should this last cannery close, it will have effects for the both the state and national economies, as well as impact Australia’s food security.

The Australian Federal Government Ministers and the Prime Minister Tony Abbott have attacked the Australian economy again and again with pessimism, misinformation and aggression.

The Australian Government needs to be critically objective in its assessment of the economic realities in the debates based on fact rather than political objectives.

Country Conference respectfully calls on the Australian Labor Party members of the Federal Parliamentary Opposition to acknowledge the contribution Sharman Stone has made to the debate on government support of industries in Australia to the Governments Ministers and Prime Minister Tony Abbott’s:

■ Attack on the industrial heart of Australia;
■ Attack on the value and essential services such industry delivers to rural Australia;
■ Undermining of the respect of the contribution and importance of a rural industry such as Armona to all Australians.

Country Conference respectfully calls on the Australian Labor Party members of the Federal Parliamentary Opposition to congratulate Sharman Stone’s heroic stand against her party leaders and for essential needs of the communities of the Electorate of Murray in Victoria for employment, real jobs, and essential contribution SPC Armona makes towards the sustainability of fruit and vegetable agricultural industries in her electorate.

 Recommendation: Reject and note the work of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party in supporting the workers of the Goulburn Valley during that time. Country Conference also notes that Country Labor is committed to supporting regional manufacturing.

21. GRIFFITH BRANCH

Country Conference supports the creation of water infrastructure for the Coleambally and Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas through other sources of funding not related to the sales of electricity assets in the state of NSW.

Country Conference opposes the sale of poles and wires in NSW.

Country Conference calls on the Federal Government to investigate other sources of revenue for the funding of any water related infrastructure in regional NSW.

 Recommendation: Support in principle.

22. HUNTER FEC

Country Conference requests that NSW Labor Party makes a core policy not to sell any more public assets or to privatise any public service.

 Recommendation: Support in principle and note that the 2014 NSW Labor Annual State Conference moved that a future Labor Government will retain public ownership of natural monopoly infrastructure including water and electricity assets.

23. JERVIS BAY ST GEORGES BASIN BRANCH

We call on the incoming NSW Labor Government to immediately abandon any plans to construct a dam on the Belubula River near Canowindra which will flood the ancient Cliefden Caves.

These caves took millions of years to be created by water seeping to fashion the limestone pillars and mazes of these ancient caves. The dam, if constructed will flood the cave system and destroy the rare formations in a few moments. We call on a halt to the project which the current government claims will provide water security to the state’s Central West ‘without adverse environmental outcomes’.

There are other and better ways of drought-proofing the country than destroying incredible caves and land formations that took millions of years to form.

 Recommendation: Support in principle.

24. JERVIS BAY ST GEORGES BASIN BRANCH

The paper mill located in Bomaderry in the Shoalhaven Local Government Area is once again under threat of closure. We have seen this many times over the years with one manufacturer reducing a workforce of several hundred per day to around 100 people for the manufacturing of specialty papers used for Australian passports, along with other specialty papers.

Country Conference calls on State and Federal governments to issue an edict to use only Australian made
papers wherever possible, to maintain this vital industry and keep these workers employed, with the additional benefits to the community which come from a workforce which lives and shops in the local area.

Recommendation: Support in principle. Country Conference notes the NSW Opposition Leader announced in July NSW Labor’s commitment to introduce the Local Jobs First policy to prioritise locally sourced content.

25. LITHGOW BRANCH

Local Government Amalgamations

That Country Conference supports the principal of self-determination for rural and regional communities and, as such, we support voluntary LGA amalgamations and oppose forced amalgamations.

Further we express our support for constitutional recognition of local government.

Recommendation: Support.

26. LITHGOW BRANCH

2014 Federal Budget

That Country Conference condemns in the strongest terms the outrageous cuts outlined in the 2014-15 Federal Budget including but not limited to:

- The proposed $7 Medicare co-payment;
- Proposals to cut welfare payments to young people for 6 months of the year;
- Deregulation of the higher education sector;
- The suspension of promised increases in superannuation contributions;
- The reintroduction of fuel excise indexation.

We are particularly concerned at the impact that these cuts will have on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in rural and regional areas. We call on the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party to oppose all these regressive provisions in the strongest terms.

Recommendation: Support.

27. LITHGOW BRANCH

Country Conference expresses grave concerns about the jobs crisis sweeping rural and regional NSW as a result of the incompetence and gross economic mismanagement of the NSW and Federal Liberal-National Governments.

We note that since the second half of 2013 more than 1,000 jobs have been lost from the manufacturing and mining sectors in the Central West alone in addition to the loss of hundreds of public sector workers in the 3 years since the election of the NSW Liberal-National Government.

Noting that neither government has advanced any proposal to address this critical situation, we call upon Country Labor to develop a rural and regional jobs strategy as a matter of priority.

Recommendation: Support.

28. LITHGOW BRANCH

Drive In/Drive Out Workers

That Country Conference applauds the resolution of the 2014 NSW Annual State Conference regarding drive in/ drive out workers, fly in/fly out workers and mining camps.

Recommendation: Support.

29. LITHGOW BRANCH

Coal Seam Gas

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

We continue to support a properly regulated, sustainable black coal mining industry.

Recommendation: Support in principle. Country Conference notes NSW Labor’s policy that Coal Seam Gas projects should not be able to proceed until independent scientific research provides conclusive evidence that expansion of the industry will not damage our precious water resources or compromise the state’s food security.

30. LOWER CLARENCE BRANCH

That Country Conference deplores the dismantling of the local Catchment Management Authority and the slashing of resources to the local Land Care groups. This was a disgraceful trade off by Barnaby Joyce who apparently could not negotiate for drought relief in its own right.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

31. LOWER CLARENCE BRANCH

That the NSW Liberal-National Government be condemned for continuing to commit infrastructure funding to the Sydney Basin to the detriment of country NSW projects. We need a State Government which governs for the whole of NSW. Despite statements from the Liberals during the release to the last state budget, all of NSW does not benefit from a well-resourced Sydney. State Government requires balance not just piecemeal offsets to the Nationals in return for their support in privatising our state services.

Recommendation: Support.
32. LOWER CLARENCE BRANCH
That Country Conference thanks Shadow Minister for Transport Anthony Albanese for his support for country people in relation to the proposals for a second Sydney airport. It is essential that country people maintain access to Kingsford Smith Airport in the long term. If regional airlines are relegated to Badgerys Creek, medical services, business and planning trips and even tourist and holiday trips would become impossible for people in country NSW. The extra travel time to and from the city and the prohibitive cost would affect individuals, business and public services.

Recommendation: Support.

33. LOWER CLARENCE BRANCH
That Country Conference rejects the Federal Liberal-National Party proposal to increase the fuel excise because of the obvious disproportionate adverse effect on country people of this proposal. Country people in general are from lower income groups, have little or no public transport and have to travel considerable distances for all services from shopping to health.

Recommendation: Support.

34. NAMBUCCA RIVER BRANCH
Country Conference calls on an incoming Robertson Labor Government to undertake a review of Recreational Fishing Habitat declarations in order to:
- Generate a clearer scientific basis of the benefits of such declarations on fish stock, breeding habitats as well as the associated benefits to local economies;
- Identify further locations for potential new declarations, including calling for expression of interest from local government and other organisations.

Recommendation: Support and note that NSW Labor created recreational fishing havens in NSW and marine conservation areas. These NSW Labor initiatives have produced real benefits for fish stocks and for recreational fishing opportunities with flow on benefits for regional tourism. A review of recreational fishing havens should look to maximise the benefits for coastal communities and the environment while at the same time considering impacts on the professional fishing industry including regional co-ops, supply of fresh locally produced fish and employment in regional communities.

35. NAMBUCCA RIVER BRANCH
Country Conference calls on an incoming Robertson Labor Government to review procurement policies in relation to major infrastructure projects, for example, major highway construction, to strengthen provisions for enforceable requirements for local workforce employment and training places including:
- Minimisation of the use of 457 visas and similar mechanisms which reduce access to jobs by the domestic workforce;
- Specific provisions to maximise the employment of local workers in rural and regional areas of high unemployment;
- Specific provisions for the inclusion of minimum numbers of traineeships and apprenticeships, including designated indigenous traineeships and apprenticeships.

Recommendation: Support and note the NSW Opposition Leader’s announcement in July that a future Labor Government will require 15 per cent of work in NSW Government construction projects to be allocated for apprentices, trainees Indigenous Australians and the long term unemployed.

36. NAMBUCCA RIVER BRANCH
Country Conference calls on the relevant State and Federal Shadow Ministers to review Labor policy in relation to live animal exports, with such a review to include:
- Animal welfare in relation to ship transport conditions and treatment at destination;
- The particular issues of animal welfare regarding sheep, cattle, buffalo and goats;
- A detailed economic analysis of the current live animal trade and the relative benefits of local processing; and
- The identification of barriers and opportunities arising from a gradual cessation of live animal exports.

Recommendation: Reject.

37. NSW YOUNG LABOR
Needle Point Gap
As part of the 2014-15 NSW Budget, the National Party allocated funding to conduct a feasibility study and begin work on the Needle Point Dam near Canowindra in NSW’s Central West. This project will cause irreversible damage to the nearby Cliefden caves due to settlement of silt after flooding. Cliefden is a site of significant aesthetic and scientific value and the Nationals should not be allowed to get away with destroying such an important network of caves.

Country Labor opposes the National Party’s plans to build this dam and action taken by the Nationals that will endanger Cliefden Caves.

Country Labor condemns this State Government policy and will write to the Labor Environmental Action Network outlining opposition to the Nationals’ planned development and urging action to be taken against the Nationals.

Recommendation: Support in principle.
38. NSW YOUNG LABOR

Expansion of the South Coast railway line
At present, NSW Trains’ South Coast Line ends at Bomaderry (Nowra). With the population of the South Coast and southern NSW growing, an expansion of the line south of the Shoalhaven River will better serve the thousands of constituents that are unable to access such basic public transport services. Furthermore, with the South Coast area extending far south of Nowra-Bomaderry, it is unacceptable that the current line servicing the South Coast is unavailable for much of the region to use.

Country Conference calls on the State Government to begin expanding the South Coast Rail Line south of the Bomaderry (Nowra) Train Station.

Country Conference specifically calls for a train line to be constructed, extending the full length of the NSW coastline down to the Victorian border, to ensure that regional constituents have the same access to public transport services as those who reside within the Sydney Metropolitan area.

Recommendation: Support in principle and calls on the State Government to ensure that the duplication of the Nowra Bridge is designed and built to allow extension of the rail line.

39. NSW YOUNG LABOR

NBN
A National Broadband Network (NBN) is essential to building sustainable communities in Regional NSW. New business opportunities and subsequent job creation will result from fast broadband services opening up new markets for products and services. The need to locate a business in a city where access to fast, reliable, communications technology is guaranteed is a barrier to locating in a regional area. Under Labor’s plan for an NBN rollout in regional Australia this barrier is removed. In the same way educational opportunities such as online learning will become an option for students wishing to complete a diploma or degree from their home.

Country Labor condemns the regressive steps taken by Malcolm Turnbull and the Federal Coalition Government that subject rural communities to a second rate communication system.

Recommendation: Note. Regional Development Australia looks to work on regional development in this fashion and was established under the Federal Labor Government. Further, the State Policy Forum has also set a community engagement direction for future Labor Government regional development.

40. NSW YOUNG LABOR

Regional Development from the Bottom Up
One of the biggest problems in developing effective policy for regional NSW is that ‘regional NSW’ is not homogenous and not simplistic. Historically, going back to the Whitlam Government, the thrust of regional development policy has been ‘decentralisation,’ resulting

41. NSW YOUNG LABOR

Poles and Wires
Country Labor notes that Mike Baird’s plans to sell off the transmissions and distribution networks of the electricity grid – the so-called ‘poles and wires’ is a shameful attack on family budgets and regional areas in particular.

In backing the Liberals on the issue, the Nationals have shown themselves as true hypocrites, willing to sell out their own constituencies for minor concessions, to break promises made at the last election, and to shed their principles at the drop of a hat.

Country Labor resolves to fight the Liberal-National power sell-off.
Recommendation: Support. Country Conference opposes the sale of poles and wires and notes that the 2014 NSW Labor Annual State Conference moved that a future Labor Government will retain public ownership of natural monopoly infrastructure including water and electricity assets.

42. NSW YOUNG LABOR
Stop the brain drain
One of the largest impediments in the way of regional development is the plight of bright young people from country areas. To attend university and get a tertiary education, young adults either need to move to metropolitan areas or larger regional centres like Wagga or Bathurst. After four years in that place, they do not return to where they are from, and they do not bring their skills back with them. The results are skill shortages, fewer opportunities for those who remain, and a slow decline in rural populations.

Country Labor will advocate more strongly for the kinds of regional development that build jobs and businesses in rural areas and which attracts young people to build careers and lives in the bush.

Recommendation: Support in principle. The State Policy Forum has set regional education as a key platform for future Labor Government regional development.

43. NSW YOUNG LABOR
Fly-in Fly-out Mining Camps
The mining industry faces a skills shortage across many of the areas it conducts its operations. Few residents of rural communities have an education in mining, and mining companies rely on ‘Fly-in Fly-out’ (FIFO) workers to conduct their operations. Many go so far as to construct entire camps or towns to house hundreds of workers, keeping them removed from local communities.

The practice of FIFO workforce is harmful to communities and harmful to workers. Small rural communities experience inflation, out of control rent hikes, and massive pressure on local infrastructure, with little-to-no job growth and little-to-no wealth generation within the town.

Camps constructed in towns like Gulgong and Singleton in the Central West threaten to double local population, double local infrastructure loads (including pressure on antiquated sewage and road systems) and deliver few benefits for local populations, as money earned is spent elsewhere.

These camps also hurt the workers themselves, as they are subject to longer shifts, less routine and more difficult home lives.

Country Labor backs the CFMEU’s campaign against these FIFO camps, and supports the communities and families affected by their construction in pre-existing communities.

The place for FIFO camps is in remote areas without existing communities. In minefields with existing towns nearby, Country Labor would prefer mining companies make investments that bolster towns, their populations, and their infrastructure, in preference to large-scale camps which are segregated from those communities and regional economies.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

44. NSW YOUNG LABOR
Throughout Australia it has been illegal to sell raw cow’s milk for drinking purposes since the 1940s. It must first go through a process called pasteurization. This process involves heating the milk to a temperature that is meant to kill off any bad bacteria. Whilst succeeding in that it also ends up destroying many of the nutrients and healthy bacteria as well.

Raw milk was originally outlawed in Australia because of the potential of transmitting diseases. Today many of the diseases that could be transmitted through milk have either been eradicated or pose little harm.

Raw milk is consumed throughout many developed countries such as Germany, France, England and Austria. Since 2009 New Zealand has permitted farmers to sell up to five litres of unpasteurised milk at a time from their farms to people buying it for themselves or their family as long as the farmers follow an approved risk management program.

It is a basic civil right of a person to be able to weigh the risks and benefits and choose what to eat.

Country Labor supports the sale and consumption of raw milk to consumers direct from the farm.

Country Labor also supports the relevant state/territory Food Authority to regulate raw milk sales and to make sure that consumers know what they are purchasing.

Country Labor calls on the State Minister for Agriculture, Katrina Hodgkinson, and the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, to introduce legislation allowing for the regulation and sale of raw milk directly by farmers in NSW and Australia.

Recommendation: Reject.

45. PAGE FEC
That Conference:
1. Notes that:
   a. on the NSW North Coast there is overwhelming community opposition to Coal Seam Gas mining;
b. the community’s concern relates to the harmful effects of CSG mining on water quality, farm lands, the environment, communities, residents’ health, and tourism;
c. the CSG industry has no social licence to operate on the NSW North Coast;
d. the NSW North Coast/ has unique environmental qualities; and
e. CSG mining is incompatible with the NSW North Coast’s important employment sectors including tourism and agriculture:

2. Is called upon to condemn the NSW Liberal-National Party Government’s pro-CSG fracking, drilling and expansion agenda on the NSW North Coast; and calls on the NSW Labor Party to:
   a. support an immediate moratorium on all CSG activities and licences within the boundaries of the State Parliamentary seats of Lismore, Ballina, Clarence, and Tweed on the NSW North Coast; and
   b. support a declaration that the State Parliament my seats of Lismore, Ballina, Clarence and Tweed be CSG Free and therefore be off limits to the CSG industry.

Recommendation: Support and note the Urgency debate at the 2014 NSW Labor Annual State Conference on this issue.

46. QUEANBEYAN BRANCH
That Country Conference applauds the previous ALP Federal Government’s NBN plan, which would have seen the digital divide ended for virtually all regional Australian communities.

That Country Conference condemns the recently released cost benefit analysis commissioned by the Federal Liberal-National Government that implies regional NSW communities should consider themselves lucky to even have access to wireless networks in regional areas.

Country NSW needs high speed broadband to meet the twenty-first century needs of households, communities and regional economies. Country Labor supports the efforts of our regional MPs to bring high speed broadband to fruition.

Recommendation: Support.

47. QUEANBEYAN BRANCH
That Country Conference welcomes the work of the State Policy Forum in relation to the broad direction it has set for regional development policy for Country Labor in NSW. Country Conference calls on the NSW Parliamentary Party, in partnership with the Country Labor Committee to build on this work and develop a detailed regional jobs plan. A plan that builds on the education and training platform of TAFE and universities and aims to develop regional NSW’s renewable energy, primary industries and manufacturing sectors.

Recommendation: Support.

48. QUEANBEYAN BRANCH
Country Conference condemns the Federal Liberal-National Government for public service job cuts that will seriously impact on the regional community and economy in the Queanbeyan region.

Recommendation: Support and note that the Federal Liberal-National Government’s public service job cuts will have serious consequences for all of country NSW.

49. QUEANBEYAN BRANCH
That Country Conference condemns any move by the Liberal-National Government to remove the Renewable Energy Target (RET). The RET is a key plank in environmental policy, and has facilitated progress towards making Australia’s energy sector less reliant on emission intensive energy generation like gas and coal. Abolishing the RET will lead to increased carbon emissions and have environmental consequences for regional communities already struggling with the environmental realities of drought.

The RET has led to significant investment and job creation in the renewable energy sector. The renewable energy sector provides jobs in regional NSW in the areas of solar and wind generation in particular. Any plan by the Liberal-National government to abolish the RET is condemned by Country Conference as an attack on regional jobs in the renewable energy sector.

Country Conference supports maintaining the RET and endorses the support and commitment to the RET by the NSW and Federal Labor Party. Keeping the RET is a victory for both the environment and jobs in regional NSW.

Recommendation: Support.

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

■ All members of the NSW community have a right to be involved in industry consultations over the development of non-conventional gas reserves;
■ The right of land owners is to be respected within the existing legislation and that any changes to that
legislation to be undertaken only after consultations;
- A proper regulatory framework as part of the Party’s energy policy;
- Appropriate environmental guidelines relating to the use of water and any impact on water resources should be part of an overall water policy within the Party’s environmental policy;
- Consideration of reserving a proportion of gas produced for domestic consumption as part of the Party’s energy policy. This takes account of the development of the necessary infrastructure for the domestic market.

Recommendation: Support.

51. SDA
Defending Penalty Rates
Public support for penalty rates consistently sits at around the 80% level as the majority of Australians recognize that penalty rates compensate people for working at unsociable times late at night, on weekends or on public holidays.

Regional workers are often reliant on penalty rates to enable them to make tight budgets work.

In government, Labor defended the fairness of existing penalty rates before the Fair Work Commission as fair compensation for work at unsociable hours.

Country Labor is extremely disappointed by recent cuts to penalty rates in the hospitality sector.

Country Labor condemns the current media campaign by business and members of the Federal Coalition Government to cut penalty rates. It is based on a narrow view that if successful would be devastating to workers reliant on penalty rates and to large sectors of the economy reliant on discretionary spending.

Country Labor will campaign in support of retention of existing penalty rates and calls on all Party Units to campaign in defence of penalty rates.

Recommendation: Support.

52. SDA
Impact of Penalty Rate Cuts on Regional NSW
Penalty rates compensate people for working at unsociable times late at night, on weekends or on public holidays.

The recent narrow debate in the media from employers on penalty rates has been about the cost to business. It completely misses the untold story of the loss to local workers, local communities and local economies across regional NSW if penalty rates are cut.

That money then goes back to the business that money leaves the local community.

The new McKell Institute study clearly demonstrates cuts to penalty rates will cost retail workers up to $315 million in take home pay and withdraw $111 million from regional NSW economies every year.

Ironically, it will be discretionary retail spending that will be among the first to feel the pinch as people spend less in their local community. Retail workers make up about 12% of the workforce in rural NSW so if they tighten their belts, the flow-on will hit local businesses and economies hard.

Penalty cuts are simply not a sustainable, long-term way of ensuring profitability for retailers in regional and rural areas. We must not forget that penalty rates are paid in compensation for the loss of time with family.

Country Labor condemns the National Party for failing to support regional workers, communities and economies across NSW in the debate on penalty rates.

Country Labor recognises both the personal and economic damage to regional communities that would be caused by cutting penalty rates and commits to campaign in support of the retention of penalty rates.

Recommendation: Support.

53. SDA
Harper Review Recommendation on Deregulating Retail Trading Hours
The Harper Review into competition policy recommendation to remove trading restrictions on important public holidays such as Boxing Day and Easter Sunday would have no beneficial impact on the economy and would only serve as an attack on Australians’ right to spend important holidays with their family and friends.

Shops are already able to trade 360½ days a year. A 2012 economic study found there were no economic benefits from extending trading to the last few restricted trading days. In rural NSW 12% of the workforce are employed in retail. Any further extension of trading hours will have a negative impact on regional families and communities by denying them precious family and community time on these significant days.

For regional workers travelling long distances to visit family at Christmas the two day break of Christmas and Boxing Day is needed for safe travel. For blended families the time is needed to accommodate Christmas with all parts of the family. Christmas just isn’t Christmas without Boxing Day.

Country Labor condemns the Harper Reviews recommendation to further deregulate retail trading hours.

Country Labor supports the Take the Time campaigns ongoing defence of work life balance.

Recommendation: Support.
54. TAMWORTH BRANCH
Country Conference requests a “Fee for Service for Union Awards” become part of the Industrial Relations platform for NSW, when NSW Labor is returned to office, based on the following points:

- A Fee for Service to be incorporated in all Enterprise Agreements, Awards and Greenfield Agreements registered under Fairwork Australia and its NSW counterpart, in the NSW jurisdiction
- The Fee for Service to be based on the Annual Union Fees, paid on a Monthly basis through the Taxation System or directly to the Union by arrangement within the Agreement or Award.

The choice for persons obtaining a benefit from Union activity is to pay the Fee for Service or join the Union.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

55. TAMWORTH BRANCH
Country Labor calls on the next NSW Labor Government to increase the renewable target to 30 percent in New South Wales.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

56. TAMWORTH BRANCH
Country Conference urges John Robertson to pursue the injustice of the NSW Coalition Government’s changes to WorkCover. Independent studies have shown WorkCover will have a surplus of $5 billion in the near future.

This surplus will be achieved through losses sustained by injured workers. We urge NSW Labor to fight to restore justice and equity to the workers compensation system.

Recommendation: Support.

57. WAGGA WAGGA BRANCH
Country Conference condemns the Federal Coalition Government on the freezing of superannuation increases.

Recommendation: Support.

58. WAGGA WAGGA BRANCH
Country Conference moves that Labor should support the continuation of the diesel excise rebate for Australian businesses such as farms and off-road Australian-owned businesses, but should end the rebate for the mining sector.

Recommendation: Note and refer to the Federal Parliamentary Country Caucus.

NDIS AND AGING

59. GRIFFITH BRANCH
Conference supports the retention of Council rate and Travel Concessions for Pensioners.

Recommendation: Support.

60. WAGGA WAGGA BRANCH
Conference calls for a strong commitment to publicly-funded palliative care arrangements in regional, rural and remote Australia.

Recommendation: Support.
EDUCATION

61. GOULBURN BRANCH

Country Conference calls on the ALP to differentiate itself from the National Liberal Party’s poor record of running a Unity ticket (during the campaign for the 2013 Federal Elections) on Education and claims to provide no difference to the Policy of the Australian Labor Party’s Better Schools Policy/Gonski Policy. Then, just two weeks into the first Federal Parliamentary sitting, the Federal Minister for Education, Christopher Pyne announces the Abbott Government’s plans to review all aspects of Labor’s education funding reforms.

The State Government Education Ministers who had committed to the Better Schools Policy were outraged. In NSW, the Education Minister, Adrian Piccoli, accused Mr Pyne of playing favourites.

“There’s no doubt that what seems to be happening is that states that signed up (to the Gonski model) are being punished and the states that didn’t sign up are being rewarded,” Mr Piccoli told The Australian - 28 November 2013.

Then on 2 December 2013 Mr Christopher Pyne did another reverse of policy in the face of major disbelief from State Governments who had signed with Better Schools Policy, media, social media and polls of public opinion indicating the anger and dismay of the Australian population on these changes of education policy.

The current policy of the National Liberal Party National Education Policy is bereft of the core strength and heart of the Better Schools Policy.

In the face of this fiasco of policy formulation of Education Policy by the National Liberal Party Federal Government the Country Conference calls on:

■ The Leader of the Australian Labor Party Federal Parliamentary Party Mr Bill Shorten to challenge the changes to the Better Schools Policy in the Australian Federal Parliament.

■ The Opposition Education Minister Ms Kate Ellis to use Question Time in the Parliament to prevent Mr Christopher Pyne’s efforts to rewrite what all of Australia heard and read when the National Liberal Party stated it would be running a Unity Ticket on Education.

Much to our concern, while the Federal Government has again reversed much of its policy to mediate the public fury at their outrageous policy reversal; what is being delivered is not the National Education Policy that was taken to the Federal 2013 election. The children of Australia no longer are to have a needs-based funding model and an effective performance and resources information system that were as an essential core aspect of the Better Schools Policy as was the additional funding that Mr David Gonski and his team based the policy development on, including the more than 7000 submissions to their consideration.

Country Conference respectfully calls on the Australian Labor Party members of the Federal Parliamentary Opposition to continue to challenge to the Governments implementation of the new Australian Federal Education Policy and any further changes the Government attempts to use to undermine the Better Schools Policy they promised to implement during the Federal Parliamentary Election Campaign of 2013:

■ Make their support for the Better Schools Policy taken to the 2013 Election widely known both within and outside parliament;

■ Make a firm commitment to raise key objections with the Parliament of Australia,

■ Keep up the pressure on the Prime Minister Mr Tony Abbott and the Education Minister Mr Christopher Pyne to implement the rollout of the Education Policy to be clearly maintaining the core and intent of the Better Schools Funding policy as a National Education Policy for Australian children.

Recommendation: Support. Country Conference notes Shadow Minister for Education Kate Ellis’ strong support of the Better Schools reforms and calls on the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party to publicly commit to years five and six of the National Education Reform Agreement.

62. GRIFFITH BRANCH

Country Conference supports the implementation of an incentive based strategy to encourage the training of, retention and employment of rural based graduates or graduates of a rural background that are willing to return to Country NSW to practice in their profession

Recommendation: Support.

63. QUEANB'EYAN BRANCH

That Country Conference condemns the Liberal-National Government’s budget cuts to education including cuts of $30 billion from schools funding over the next decade.

Country Conference especially condemns the failure of the Liberal-National government to fund the vital fifth and sixth years of the Gonski reforms as originally outlined in the National Education Reform Agreement (NERA).

That Country Conference welcomes the ongoing commitment of the Labor Party to the Gonski education reforms. Country Conference specifically acknowledges NSW Labor’s commitment to years five and six of the previously negotiated agreements. Due to the substantial significance of these reforms for country NSW schools, Country Conference specifically calls on the federal parliamentary party to commit to years 5 and 6 of the NERA.
That Country Conference condemns the current Liberal-National Government’s plan to deregulate the university sector. The proposed reforms, as presented, will damage regional universities and students in particular by driving up the cost of university degrees.

**Recommendation: Support.**

### 64. WAGGA WAGGA BRANCH

Country Conference condemns the Federal Coalition Government on its attack on higher education and the future of Australia’s youth.

**Recommendation: Support.**

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### OTHER POLICY AREAS

#### 65. ARMIDALE BRANCH

**Women’s and Children’s Refuges**

Country Conference condemns the cuts into women’s and homelessness services particularly in regional areas, and demands that the funding be reinstated.

**Recommendation: Support and refer to motion 73.**

#### 66. BELLINGER RIVER BRANCH

That the Labor Party move to the re-introduction of Child Endowment (means-tested) to replace Family Tax benefits A and B which have been excessively complex and are due to be scrapped by the Abbott Government.

Child endowment recognises the high cost of raising children and is an essential form of assistance for low and middle income working families.

**Recommendation: Reject.**

#### 67. FORSTER TUNCURRY BRANCH

**Asylum Seekers**

That Country Conference strongly condemns the Abbott Government’s handling of asylum seekers. Further, Country Conference asks the ALP to revise its position on asylum seekers, so as to allow voters, and those fleeing persecution, a means by which to access the morally correct political policies of the Party which stands up for the rights of those who are abused, underprivileged and requiring the large hearts of those who reside in this country.

**Recommendation: Support in principle and refer to motion 72.**

#### 68. GOULBURN BRANCH

Country Conference condemns the NSW Government for its backwards steps in the representation of women on boards and advisory bodies in NSW.

Country Conference condemns the NSW Minister for Women’s Affairs and MP for Goulburn Pru Goward for her lack of advocacy for women and gender equity.

Ms Goward has overseen the abolition of the NSW Premier’s Advisory Council for Women, and the abandonment of the ‘Male Champion for Change’ Award, after just one year.

Ms Goward did not even convene the ‘NSW Women’s Council for Economic Opportunity’ during its first year of establishment.

Country Conference calls on Ms Goward, who professes to be an advocate for Women’s Affairs to address the
issue of gender equity both in her portfolio, and in the NSW Government.

**Recommendation: Support.**

### 69. GOULBURN BRANCH

Country Conference notes the damage to Australian's retirement incomes as a result of the changes to superannuation proposed by the Federal Government.

As discussed, Tony Abbott is being very cheeky and disingenuous when he says that it would be beneficial to workers to defer the gradual increase of the superannuation rate from 9% to 12% so as to pocket the equivalent amount of money in take-home pay.

This 3% increase to the superannuation guarantee over the course of 5 years (as was the Labor Party policy) represents about one year's growth in average wages.

Since inflation and cost of living increases are 3% per annum, a wage increase to any worker of less than 3% is tantamount to a pay cut in real dollar terms.

Since Abbott has never been one to agitate for healthy wages growth (though he certainly did complain in 2007 when Kevin Rudd froze the automatic pay increases to politicians), he would probably be quite happy for workers' wages to only grow by 3% over 5 years, when in fact they ought to grow by 10-15% over that period.

Any worker whose wages grew by just 3% between now and 2019 should probably speak to their union.

**Recommendation: Support in principle.**

### 70. GOULBURN BRANCH

Country Conference denounces the National Liberal Party Government's attack on the value and contribution to Australian political and cultural life made by the Australian Broadcasting Commission:

- The Australian Federal Government Ministers and the Prime Minister Tony Abbott have attacked the ability of the Australian Broadcasting Commission to deliver impartial and politically balanced debate to Australians
- The Australian Government needs to be critically objective in its assessment of the national broadcaster and avoid raising hysterical media debates based on political objectives rather than in the National Interest
- The Australian Federal Government to affirm the value and contribution to the Australian public of neutral balanced inquiry and reporting.

The Australian Federal Government to affirm the value and contribution to the Australian national identity by the diverse media offering of the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

Country Conference respectfully calls on the Australian Labor Party members of the Federal Parliamentary Opposition to continue to challenge to the Governments Ministers and Prime Minister Tony Abbot's:

- Attack on the Australian Broadcasting Commission;
- Attack on the value and essential services the Australian Broadcasting Commission delivers to rural Australia;
- The undermining of the respect of the contribution and importance of a National Broadcaster to deliver news and community media services that are neutral and impartial to all Australians.

Country Conference respectfully calls on the Australian Labor Party members of the Federal Parliamentary Opposition to reaffirm the essential and uniquely Australian quality of the non-commercial character of the Australian Broadcasting Commission as an independent National Broadcaster for the Australian public.

**Recommendation: Support.**

### 71. LITHGOW BRANCH

Women's and Children's Refuges

That Country Conference condemns the NSW Government for slashing funding to women's and children's refuges across NSW. Country Conference notes that such cuts will have a disproportionately severe effect in rural and regional areas. Country Conference is concerned about increasing number of religious organisations providing such services. When elected Country Conference calls upon a Robertson-Burney Labor government to reverse these cuts.

**Recommendation: Support and refer to motion 73.**

### 72. LITHGOW BRANCH

In light of events at the Manus Island detention centre, Country Conference calls on the Party to develop asylum seeker policy and language that reflects our respect for human rights and dignity.

**Recommendation: Support in principle and note that the 2014 NSW Labor Annual State Conference moved to reject the Coalition Government's cruel, inhumane and secretive asylum seeker policies and moved to support a policy that should:**

- Ensure that people who seek asylum in Australian territory are not punished or discriminated against for their mode of arrival;
- Use detention facilities solely for ascertaining health, security status and identification as quickly as possible, and where feasible within 90 days;
- Ensure that those in detention facilities have access to an appropriate standard of care including health and education services; and
- Have all claims involving children processed where possible in the community.
73. NAMBUCCA RIVER BRANCH
Country Conference, noting the appalling outcomes of the NSW Government’s Going Home Staying Home homelessness service reforms, calls on an incoming Robertson Labor Government to review procurement processes for non-government community-based programs. Such a review should address the increasing tendency for contracts to be awarded to larger, often not locally based, organisations. These trends, if not addressed, may lead to a more rapid decline in localism and impact significantly on the ability for smaller communities to access appropriate services or create their own solutions. Country Conference further condemns the current moves by the Abbott Government to abolish the ACNC, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

Recommendation: Support.

74. NSW YOUNG LABOR
NSW Liberals taking the Hunter for granted
With the former MP for the state seat of Newcastle, Tim Owen, and the former MP for the state seat of Charlestown, Andrew Cornwell, resigning from the NSW Parliament following an ICAC inquiry, the NSW Liberal Party has decided not to contest the upcoming by-elections for the two former Liberal seats.

This decision clearly demonstrates the NSW Coalition Government’s complete and utter disregard for Regional constituents, in particular those within the Hunter.

Country Conference condemns the NSW Coalition Government for preselecting the former state members for Newcastle and Charlestown, and in the case of Mr Cornwell, providing the disgraced former MP with the parliamentary position of Chief Government Whip.

Specifically, Country Labor condemns the Coalition for bringing the NSW Parliament into disrepute and tainting Parliament’s reputation.

Furthermore, Country Conference condemns the NSW Liberal Party for their decision to abandon the Hunter region by not contesting the two seats in their upcoming by-elections, a shameful decision brought about by their fear of losing in Miranda-esque fashion.

Recommendation: Support.

75. LITHGOW BRANCH
Uranium sales to India
Country Conference calls on the ALP to reverse its policy of selling uranium to India.

Recommendation: Reject.

76. LITHGOW BRANCH
Free Trade Agreements
That Lithgow branch expresses serious reservations regarding the recent free trade agreement negotiated between the Australian and Japanese governments. In particular we question the real value of the tariff reductions and doubt the agreement as negotiated will provide any opportunity for real jobs growth in Australia. We are particularly concerned about the lack of transparency and openness during FTA negotiations in general.

Further, we express concerns about the value of unilateral free trade agreements as a concept, especially in the light of the contraction of Australian manufacturing industries over the last 40 years.

Recommendation: Note and refer to the Federal Parliamentary Country Labor caucus.

77. LOWER CLARENCE
That Country Conference condemns the Federal Liberal-National Government and the NSW State Liberal-National Government for their consistent attacks on country youth. Country Conference calls on the State Opposition leader to prepare a solid strategy to address the destruction of youth services in country NSW as a policy platform for the 2015 election.

Recommendation: Support.

78. TAMWORTH BRANCH
Renewable Energy
Country Conference calls on the next ALP Government in NSW to:
- Reintroduce the 60 cents per kilowatt Hr. payment for renewable energy produced by household roof technology; and
- Seriously consider setting up NSW’s own renewable energy Department within the NSW Government.

Recommendation: Note. NSW Labor will provide consumer protection for those who install solar panels on their homes, ensuring a fair tariff for those who sell excess energy back to the grid. NSW Labor will mandate IPART’s recommendation for the size of this payment. Within the Department of Premier and Cabinet, and led by the Energy and Climate Change Ministers, NSW Labor will set up a unit with cross-government representation that helps facilitate the growth of renewable energy.
79. TAMWORTH BRANCH
Medical Cannabis Legislation
Country Conference:

- Notes that the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into medical cannabis had unanimous support from a diverse range of parties for the legislation and availability of medical cannabis in NSW.
- Recognises that according to the 2011 Drug and Alcohol Survey, support for measures relating to cannabis use in a medical setting for people aged 14 years or older is 68.6 percent in NSW, and 74 percent support a clinical trial for people to use marijuana to treat medical conditions.
- Recognises that while medical cannabis is not a first line drug, it is an effective second line drug for some medical conditions.
- Supports the acceptance of medical cannabis and believes that the implementation of medically available cannabis in NSW be based exclusively on evidence of its clinical efficacy, safety and cost effectiveness.
- Recognises that medicinal cannabis should be controlled by prescription by medical professionals only.
- Recognises that nabiximals, satrives, is only approved for one condition, is unavailable in practice and is unaffordable.
- Recognises the need to have a system whereby patients can administer cannabis under the instruction and direction of medical experts.
- Supports the introduction of necessary legal reforms in NSW permitting the introduction of medical prescription of cannabis provided that practical and regulatory issues are addressed in consultation with medical experts.

Recommendation: Note. The NSW Labor Opposition has moved to, if elected in March 2015, allow people with a terminal illness to use cannabis for pain relief and protect their carers from criminal sanctions by permitting them to provide a defence from arrest and prosecution from terminally ill using cannabis for medical purposes.

80. TWEED BRANCH
Policing on the North Coast
That Country Conference:

- Expresses its deep concern about the National Party’s failure to honour its promise to provide additional police numbers to the North Coast, particularly the Tweed Byron Local Area Command (LAC);
- Notes officer numbers have fallen from 198 (including highway patrol officers) in February 2012 to just 181 (including highway patrol officers) in July 2014;
- Further notes that before the 2011 State election, Tweed National Party MP Geoff Provest called for an additional 59 officers for the Tweed Byron LAC;
- Recognises that the Tweed region has experienced an increase in levels of crime, including rates of sexual assault, assaults on police, non-residential break and enters, drug offences and breaches of Apprehended Violence Orders that are above the state average for these offences; and
- Demands the State Government listen to the concerns of more than 500 people who signed a petition calling for the Liberal-National Party Government to restore and increase police numbers.

Recommendation: Support. Country Conference recognises that this is an issue right across country NSW.

81. WAGGA WAGGA BRANCH
Country Conference endorses the itemisation of those levies listed as “miscellaneous” on a car CTP Greenslip.

Recommendation: Support.
RULES & ADMINISTRATION

82. BELLINGER RIVER BRANCH
Country Conference proposes that the design and colours of our Party used be consistent, similar to the Party key-ring design and colour. This design being stylish and represents the ALP.

This is to be used for all elections to ensure that our symbol is recognised immediately.

The National Party we note have not changed their colours over the years and stands out at elections unlike our Party.


83. BELLINGER RIVER BRANCH
Country Conference expects Eric Roozendaal and those associated members of the ALP involved in the Jodi Mackay affair working to oust her out of Parliament, should be expelled from the Labor party.

Recommendation: Note. Country Conference also notes that Eric Roozendaal has been suspended by the NSW Labor Administrative Committee pending the outcomes of the ICAC investigation. Country Conference would also like to thank Jodi McKay for her commitment to the Labor Party.

84. COWPER FEC
Country Conference continues its commitment to democratic reforms to the structure of NSW Country Labor.

That Country Conference calls on the NSW State Conference to amend the relevant sections of the NSW Rules to allow for the election of all members of the NSW Country Labor Committee by the NSW Country Labor Conference using proportional representation as provided for in Schedule F of the NSW Rules.

Recommendation: Reject. Country Conference notes that the 2014 NSW Labor Annual State Conference passed significant reforms giving members a greater say such as the direct election of the NSW Labor Parliamentary Leader.

86. COWPER FEC
Country Conference continues its commitment to democratic reforms to the structure of NSW Country Labor.

That this Country Conference calls on the NSW State Conference to amend the relevant sections of the NSW Rules to allow for the election of the Country Organiser by direct rank and file preferential ballot of all financial members of NSW Country Labor using the method provided for in Schedule G of the NSW Rules.

Recommendation: Reject. Country Conference notes that the 2014 NSW Labor Annual State Conference passed significant reforms giving members a greater say such as the direct election of the NSW Labor Parliamentary Leader.

87. FARRER FEC
That for future elections, Head Office provide a large poster size how-to-vote corflute for each polling booth in each electorate. These to be provided for both pre-poll and on election day. This would be extremely helpful at booths which could not be staffed and would help maximise the Labor vote and reduce informal ALP votes.

Recommendation: Note.

88. FORSTER TUNCURRY BRANCH
That Country Conference strongly believes that all ALP members’ votes should carry equal weight when selecting candidates for Party positions which fall vacant.

Recommendation: Reject.

89. GOULBURN BRANCH
That Country Conference allocates resources to the appointment of three Country Organisers, in Northern, Central and Southern areas with the Country Organisers to be living in these areas.

Recommendation: Reject. Conference supports local organising efforts and the election of local SEC organisers to build capacity for future campaigns at a branch and SEC level.
90. LITHGOW BRANCH
Rank-and-File Pre-selection
That Country Conference restates its strong support for the use of rank and file ballots when selecting candidates for the NSW Legislative Assembly, the Australian House of Representatives and local councils.
Recommendation: Support. Country Conference also notes the recent success of the first regional Community Preselection held in Ballina.

91. LITHGOW BRANCH
Rural and Regional Representation in the NSW Legislative Council
That Country Conference calls for such reforms to the Rules of the NSW ALP as would ensure reasonable representation of Country Labor members in the NSW Legislative Council.
Recommendation: Refer to motion 99.

92. LITHGOW BRANCH
Democratisation of NSW Country Labor
That Country Conference expresses its considerable disappointment at the decision of the 2014 NSW state conference to reject proposals to democratise NSW Country Labor. We renew our call for genuine democratisation of Country Labor and call upon the 2014 Country Conference to do likewise.
Recommendation: Reject. Country Conference notes that the 2014 NSW Labor Annual State Conference passed significant reforms giving members a greater say such as the direct election of the NSW Labor Parliamentary Leader.

93. LOWER CLARENCE BRANCH
That Country Conference requests the NSW Labor Party to review the NSW ALP website content. The website needs a position statement to reflect our belief in a fair and just society and needs to utilise positive forward thinking statements. The website must reflect our ideology especially when both the State and Federal Liberal-National governments are deliberately pushing our communities towards entrenched inequity.
Recommendation: Support in principle.

94. MURRAY DARLING SEC
That a further category of “remote, rural and regional” be included in the categories for representation on the Policy Forum. Our members do not consider that a definition of “regional” which includes the large population centres along the coast gives a fair chance for candidates living in communities west of the Blue Mountains to be elected given the much smaller population in those areas and the difficulty members living there experience in becoming part of Party networks and making themselves known to the wider membership
Recommendation: Note.

95. NSW YOUNG LABOR
Young Labor-Country Labor Integration
There are many Young Labor members in Young Labor Associations (YLAs) that are within the boundaries by Country Labor. Currently many members of these YLAs find it difficult to attend meetings of their local branch due to the difficulties of travelling to meetings, and a lack of knowledge of the existence of a local branch within their area.

Young Labor members should be engaging not only with the broader Young Labor, but with the NSW Labor as well through branch meetings and local events. This is something that unfortunately does not extensively occur.

Country Labor should look at ways of assessing this problem, and promoting integration between Young Labor members and Country Labor branches.

Country Labor notes that there are currently issues with the way in which Young Labor members in country areas are engaging with the NSW Labor.

Country Labor acknowledges the need to promote further integration of Young Labor members with country branches.

Country Labor believes that NSW Labor branches and regional YLAs should be at the very least aware of each other’s existence, and promote one another.

The NSW Country Labor Organiser will work with the Office Bearers and Executive of NSW Young Labor to assess the current relationship between Country Labor and Young Labor.

Where possible, Country Labor branches will make an effort to reach out to their region’s Young Labor Association (YLA) in order to promote Young Labor members joining their local branch.

The NSW Country Labor Organiser will work to ensure that Country Branches are in dialogue with their respective regional Young Labor Association (YLA).


96. NSW YOUNG LABOR
Establishing a Young Labor Country Network
NSW Young Labor is arguably the greatest campaign machine across the country.
Youth engagement with policy development ensures NSW
and Country Labor stay relevant and connected to the next generation of leaders within our Party.

Young people in regional areas of NSW are disproportionately affected by the cruel policies enacted under Liberal governments, particularly Tertiary Education and TAFE cuts, and cuts to government investment in local infrastructure and social services.

NSW Country Labor supports and encourages the establishment of a Young Labor Country Network to engage with youth on policy matters and support their involvement in the Party.

NSW Country Labor will assist NSW Young Labor in establishing a Young Labor Country Network.

Recommendation: Support in principle.

97. PORT MACQUARIE SEC
That factions be restricted with recruiting within Young Labor with regards to contact of members under the age of 18 years.

Recommendation: Reject.

98. PORT MACQUARIE SEC
That any information requested or received with regards to Electoral funding for this election be in writing and c.c.’d to all SEC Delegates and SEC Alternate Delegates.

Recommendation: Note.

99. QUEANBEYAN BRANCH
Country Conference notes that the people of regional NSW have a right to be properly represented in the NSW Parliament and calls on all sections of the party to support regional candidates in winnable positions in NSW Legislative Council pre-selections.

Recommendation: Support.

100. QUEANBEYAN BRANCH
That Country Conference congratulates the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party for setting up a formal Country Caucus.

NSW Country Labor looks forward to working with the Caucus on important regional policy matters. Country Conference calls on the National Executive to establish a Federal Country Labor Party as already endorsed by the National Conference.

Recommendation: Support.

101. TAMWORTH BRANCH
Democratisation of NSW Country Labor
Country Conference moves that all elected Country Labor positions be elected by Country Labor Conference.

Recommendation: Reject. Country Conference notes that the 2014 NSW Labor Annual State Conference passed significant reforms giving members a greater say such as the direct election of the NSW Labor Parliamentary Leader.

102. WAGGA WAGGA BRANCH
Country Conference protests the apparent lack of support to Jodi McKay at the last State Election.

Recommendation: Note. Country Conference would like to thank Jodi McKay for her commitment to the Labor Party.