



Labor Environment Action Network

(LEAN) (NSW Branch)

A NSW Labor Action Committee (LAC)

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6 November 2015

The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC
Shadow Minister for the Environment
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2001

The Hon Adam Searle MLC
Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council
Shadow Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Sharpe and Mr Searle

Labor Environment Action Network NSW: Submissions on NSW Labor Platform

The NSW Labor Environment Action Network (LEAN) was established in 2004 by current Senator and former National President, Jenny McAllister, and former NSW Premier Kristina Keneally. LEAN is a cross-factional group for Labor members and supporters who wish to drive environmental protection; place sustainability principles and values at the centre of Labor's culture and party platform; and ensure that Labor is the leading party of the environment in NSW and Australia. NSW LEAN presently has more than 2,300 members.

In 2014 LEAN formally affiliated with the party as a Labor Action Committee of the NSW Branch. As an affiliated group with an expanded membership LEAN has significantly increased campaign output and activities, including leading the '50/50' campaign to strengthen Labor's climate action targets ahead of the 2015 National Conference. NSW LEAN's patrons are The Hon Luke Foley MP, Leader of the NSW Opposition; and The Hon Tony Burke MP, Shadow Federal Minister for Finance and Manager of Opposition Business.

NSW LEAN wishes to submit proposals for amendment of NSW Labor's Platform. Our submissions is based on:

1. Labor's previous election policy commitments

In modernising its environment platform at the 2015 NSW Labor Conference, NSW Labor should build on the environment policy that Labor took to the 2015 NSW election; on the best practice elements already contained in other State and National ALP Platforms; on the 2015 National Platform; and on policy developed in office in Labor Governments in Queensland, ACT and Victoria.

2. Labor Vision

NSW Labor should position itself to resume its historic role of vision leadership on climate policy, renewable energy and energy efficiency

3. Labor Values

NSW Labor should be seeking to make climate action, renewable energy and energy efficiency central to our ambitions for jobs and innovation

LEAN has consulted both within the party and externally in developing these suggestions. Additionally LEAN has thoroughly reviewed the current National, Victorian, Queensland, Western Australian, Australian Capital Territorian, Tasmanian and South Australian Platforms, as well as the various election commitments of NSW Labor at the 2015 State Election.

All of LEAN's proposals are based on amendment to the existing platform (changes highlighted in red below; with reference sources in other Labor platforms, where applicable, in square brackets).

As you will note, the majority of our submissions relate to climate change and the transition to a clean energy economy, with a smaller number of suggestions regarding other environmental issues. While lengthy, this submission does not propose to comprehensively cover all environmental issues.

Should you have any enquiries regarding this submission, please contact Declan Clausen on 0433 308 771 or David Mason on 0424 514 877.

Yours for Labor and the Environment,

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Convenor, NSW LEAN

Nic Nelson
State Organiser, NSW LEAN

CC: Ms Yasmin Catley MP, Shadow Parliamentary Secretary (Renewable Energy Policy)
The Hon Luke Foley MP, NSW LEAN State Patron
The Hon Tony Burke MP, NSW LEAN Federal Patron
Mr Jamie Clements, General Secretary, NSW Labor
NSW and Federal Parliamentary Labor Party
Chair and Deputy-Chair, Building Sustainable Communities Policy Committee

LEAN's Submission

Summary of recommendations

1. **Environment and sustainability in Labor values:** Commitments on environment and sustainability in the first Chapter of the NSW Platform should be enhanced by inclusion of statements on environment in Labor values reflecting those contained in other Labor platforms.
2. **Sustainable communities and liveable cities:** Statements in the NSW Platform regarding sustainable communities should be enhanced by drawing on related material in the National and other State platforms.
3. **Central role for climate action, renewable energy and energy efficiency:** NSW Labor should make climate action, renewable energy and energy efficiency central to our ambitions for jobs and innovation
4. **Climate and environmental sustainability in cross government policy:** Statements in the NSW Platform on the relevance of climate and environment issues across multiple areas of policy, presently only confined to the Country Labor section, should be applied more generally and developed further.
5. **Climate and energy policy:** The Platform should reflect the 2015 NSW election policy in recognising the need to combine climate and energy policy.
6. **Emissions reduction targets:** Commitments on emissions reduction targets contained in the 2015 election policy will need to be updated for the period to 2030
7. **Just transitions:** The Platform should commit to ensuring just transitions for workers and communities in the move to a clean energy economy.
8. **Retirement of fossil fuelled power stations:** Provisions in the 2015 election policy on retirement of obsolete coal fired generation plants should be reflected and built on in the Platform.
9. **Land sector emissions:** Existing platform provisions on sustainable land use should be supplemented by statements expressly recognising the role of the land sector in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
10. **Renewable energy:** The material on renewable energy in the existing Platform should be augmented, building on commitments in the 2015 NSW election policy and the National Platform.
11. **Renewable energy targets:** The Platform should commit NSW Labor to developing appropriately ambitious renewable energy targets to take to the next election.
12. **Opportunities in a clean energy economy:** The Platform should emphasise opportunities in a clean energy economy, as the 2015 election policy did and as the National Platform does.
13. **Regulatory barriers to clean energy:** The Platform should incorporate commitments made in the 2015 election policy on removal of the Coalition's arbitrary barriers to wind energy
14. **Use of native forests and cleared vegetation for electricity:** The Platform should restate the commitment made in the 2015 election policy to block use of native forests and cleared vegetation for electricity
15. **Community energy generation:** The platform should build on the support for community energy generation indicated in the 2015 election policy, as well as in other State platforms
16. **Household generation:** The platform should build on the support for household renewable energy generation indicated in the 2015 election policy, as well as in other State platforms
17. **Renewable energy generation on commercial properties:** The Platform should indicate support for increasing renewable energy generation on commercial properties.
18. **Government purchasing of renewable energy:** The Platform should build on commitments regarding Government purchasing of renewable energy in the 2015

election policy, and should build on policy development in this area by other State Labor governments,

19. **Renewable energy generation on government properties:** The Platform should reflect and expand commitments made in the 2015 election policy regarding solar power in schools, to cover generation on all appropriate government properties
20. **Energy efficiency:** The Platform should commit to restoring NSW leadership on energy efficiency, building on provisions in the existing Platform and on commitments in the 2015 election policy, including in relation to Government, health, education, transport, public housing, households, commercial buildings and industry.
21. **Electric vehicles:** The Platform should commit to investigating deployment of electric buses, and supporting roll out of electric vehicle charging technology.
22. **Climate adaptation:** The Platform should include provisions on adaptation to climate change, generally and in specific areas of policy including infrastructure; local government and communities; health; older Australians; emergency management; and agriculture.
23. **CSG:** The Platform should incorporate the commitments made on CSG in the 2015 election policy
24. **Environmental law:** The Platform should make clear NSW Labor's commitment to reviving and updating what were once best-practice systems of environmental management for NSW.
25. **Role of conservation groups and ENGOs:** In the context of the Federal Coalition's attacks on environmental advocacy and on grassroots conservation groups it is particularly important for Labor platforms to support these groups
26. **Mine and industrial site rehabilitation:** The Platform should contain provisions on mine and industrial site rehabilitation
27. **Forests:** The provisions of the existing platform regarding forests should be supplemented by including a statement on the overarching importance of forests and by inclusion of support for world heritage recognition for internationally significant NSW forests (as indicated in the 2015 election policy)
28. **Targets for parks and protected areas:** Commitments regarding national parks in the 2015 election policy should be reflected in the Platform. These should be supplemented with reference to the targets indicated in the Convention on Biological Diversity
29. **Protection on private land:** Provisions of the existing platform regarding national parks and reserved natural areas should be supplemented with material from the 2015 election policy regarding measures for conservation on private land.
30. **Environmental offsets:** Provisions of the 2015 election policy regarding environmental offsets should be incorporated into the Platform
31. **Land clearing:** Reference in the existing Platform to minimising clearing of native forests should be expanded to refer to land clearing more generally.
32. **Land degradation:** The existing Platform provision regarding land degradation should be amended to make clear that NSW Labor accepts a responsibility to address land degradation, without making this contingent on co-operation from the Federal Government
33. **Pollution:** The general statement in the existing Platform regarding minimising pollution should be supplemented with more specific commitments.
34. **Waste:** Statements on waste in the existing Platform should be supplemented with more specific commitments
35. **Water:** The principles stated in the existing Platform on water management should be supplemented with more specific commitments to action
36. **Oceans, coasts and rivers:** The Platform should incorporate the commitments made in the 2015 election policy regarding oceans, coasts and rivers
37. **Uranium:** The Platform should incorporate statements on uranium contained in the 2015 election policy

LEAN's proposed platform amendments

Chapter 1: Building sustainable communities

1.1 NSW Labor will promote urban and regional development that creates sustainable communities. NSW Labor in government will promote economic growth that creates livable communities with appropriate housing development supported by infrastructure, employment opportunities, affordable energy and affordable public transport. Labor in government will give priority to measures which promote liveable cities including improved planning and public transport to reduce congestion and commuting time; energy efficient building design; green spaces for improved urban amenity and to combat the effect of a changing climate [based on National platform 3.68, 3.71] Labor will also seek to balance such development with access to a protected natural environment and cultural, social and recreational activities and facilities. Labor will promote the concept of ecological permeability in the retention and management of urban bushland. [WA platform 3.42]

A sustainable environment

1.26 : ... NSW Labor supports strong measures to avoid dangerous climate change. Labor recognises that climate change poses significant risks to economic growth. [National platform 2.2] Labor will put climate change at the heart of our commitment to deliver jobs, innovation and investment to build a prosperous, safe and fair NSW. [National platform 4.16]

1.27 Labor recognises the critical interrelationship between the environment, society and the economy [Victorian platform p71]. Labor acknowledges that the prosperity of present and future generations is dependent on the health of our natural environment and the effective management of all natural resources. [Queensland platform 5.49] NSW Labor will integrate environmental, social and economic policy to produce a best practice approach to the principles of ecologically sustainable development. The focus will be on housing options, transport infrastructure, recreational facilities and business opportunities. Labor recognises that environmental sustainability requires a whole of government approach and that all government decision-making should consider the need for a sustainable future. [WA platform 3.3] Labor in government will:

- (1) commit all areas of policy and administration to environmental sustainability, including reporting on key indicators (including energy efficiency and use, water use and recycling, waste, and sustainable procurement)
- (2) commit all relevant areas of policy and administration to develop climate change mitigation and adaptation plans [new clauses to give effect to commitment in preceding sentence]

Insert following 1.27:

Environmental law

Open and transparent environmental management systems are essential for effective decision making, monitoring, assessment and reporting of environmental performance and outcomes. [National platform 4.5]

NSW Labor will revive and update what were once best-practice systems of environmental management for NSW, including

- Management, governance and decision making structures and responsibility, including the independence of institutions involved in environmental protection;
- Consistent standards and adequate data for decision making;

- Efficient and certain regulation including streamlined environmental assessment processes;
- Fair and efficient management of Australia's environment as a foundation for ecologically sustainable jobs;
- Enhancing biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations; and
- Resilience in the natural environment. [National platform 4.34]

Labor recognises the need to have a strong environmental watchdog that has the independence to carry out its mission as protector of the environment and advocate of best practice environmental management. [Victorian platform P88]

Role of community groups, ENGOS:

Labor recognises and supports the passion of local environment conservation groups and the invaluable contribution they make to protecting and preserving Australia's environment. These groups play an important role in mobilising government action on local environmental issues and are critical, active participants in broader national conversations on issues such as climate change. [National platform 4.9]

Labor will provide sufficient resources to enable community groups, NGOs and other environmental organisations to participate in government processes and play a substantial role in ensuring best environmental outcomes for NSW. [WA platform 3.9]

Labor will develop and implement an Environmental Justice Action Plan, modelled on international best practice, to support environmental justice research, public education and enforcement. Labor will ensure that members of the community have legal standing to seek enforcement of the law and review of Government decisions, including reviews in the public interest [Victorian platform p75]

Pollution: Insert following 1.29:

Labor will support enhanced national standards on air quality and monitoring and reporting of air pollution [National platform 4.58]

Labor will require that the costs of pollution control, including licensing, monitoring, policing, auditing and remediation are met by industry and the costs of managing the human health and environmental impacts of pollution are met by polluters. [WA platform 3.44]

Labor will ensure that bodies set up to monitor the effects of pollutants on our air, water and soil are properly resourced and able to operate effectively to provide advice, information and recommendations to government in a timely manner. [WA platform 3.45]

Environmental Offsets

Insert following 1.30:

NSW Labor will ensure that biodiversity offsets policy is built on key foundations:

- 'like for like' offsetting, within a reasonable geographic proximity;
- no 'net loss' biodiversity outcomes and ideally 'net positive' outcomes;
- recognition that some high conservation value lands must be off limits to offsetting; and
- ensure a single system for environmental offsets for all development in NSW. [NSW 2015 policy]

Coal seam gas

Insert following 1.36:

A NSW Labor Government will impose a state wide moratorium on CSG activity. A NSW Labor Government will not lift the moratorium unless the industry is proven to be safe. Labor will ban CSG in the Northern Rivers, in the Pilliga, and within a 2 km exclusion zone around all national parks and RAMSAR wetlands. Labor will ban CSG in core drinking water catchments and within 2 kilometers of urban or residential areas [NSW policy 2015]

Climate change

Add to 1.37 as follows:

1.37 NSW Labor recognises the need for immediate and sustainable action to limit greenhouse gas emissions and counter climate change. Labor recognises that climate change poses threats, and requires responses, in areas including agriculture and primary industries, education, energy, health, infrastructure, local government and planning, tourism and transport. Labor will require climate adaptation plans from Departments and agencies to include modelling of climate change impacts on their operations, services and policy responsibilities. [expanded from existing Country Labor section] Key principles and goals are to ... [continue existing para]

Insert new paragraphs following 1.37:

NSW Labor supports Australian Labor's commitment to Australia doing its fair share in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including the goal that net emissions must approach zero by mid-century. [new] Within Australia, NSW must also do its fair share. NSW is responsible for 31% of the country's economy. [NSW policy 2015] Labor recognises that the relatively high current emissions intensity of the NSW economy presents challenges, but also presents opportunities for emissions reductions. [new] NSW needs to seize the opportunities opening up in a clean energy economy, and avoid being left behind. [new] NSW Labor will pursue a comprehensive strategy to achieve these objectives [Victorian platform p81]

Land sector emissions: Labor will reduce emissions from land management by strictly controlling land clearing and re-vegetating degraded land; supporting primary producers to adopt practices that sequester carbon in soils and perennial vegetation, encouraging carbon farming; supporting energy-efficient technologies that convert emissions and plant wastes into energy and other useful products [Queensland platform 5.47]

Climate adaptation

Climate change is not only a problem for the future. Parts of NSW are already feeling the impact of climate change now. Helping communities adapt to a changing climate is essential to Labor's long term plan to address the issues arising from climate change including reduced water and other resources, rising sea levels, warmer average temperatures and more frequent and intense extreme weather events *including heatwaves, storms and flash flooding*. [National platform, 4.29; additional words in italics]

Infrastructure: Infrastructure planning will need to take account of projected sea level rises due to climate change; potential for increased severity of flash flooding (since warmer air holds more water); and resilience of critical infrastructure in heat waves and storm events. [new] Labor will give special attention to infrastructure projects which help affected communities and industries deal with change. [National platform 3.11] Labor will require

climate adaptation and resilience plans for all major infrastructure owned or regulated by the NSW government; and promote national climate adaptation and resilience standards and planning for other major infrastructure [new]

Local government and communities: Coalition governments, Federal and State, have failed to provide local governments with the support they need to prepare their communities for climate change impacts. Labor will:

- Work with Councils to develop risk management procedures and programs acknowledging the growing impact of climate change [Victorian platform p75]
- Hold a Local Government Climate Summit to restore the relationship between State and local governments;
- Implement strategies that support coastal communities to respond to the impact of rising sea levels [Victorian platform p82]
- work with community organisations (*such as sporting bodies*) to identify and address their vulnerability to climate change. [National platform 4.30; additional words in italics]

Health: Labor will ensure that health policy and planning takes into account the impacts of climate change [new, reflects national platform]

Older people: NSW Labor will ensure that the particular vulnerabilities of older people are addressed in planning for heatwaves and other extreme weather events. [new]

Emergency management: Climate change is already causing an increase in the number and severity of natural disasters and extreme weather events affecting Australia. NSW Labor will review our emergency strategies and response capacity and work with other levels of government to ensure capacity meets increasing demand. [National platform 4.29]

Coastal lands, rivers and wetlands

Add following 1.39:

Labor will:

- establish a one off Healthy Rivers Commission to assess the health of NSW rivers
- review all legislation and policies relating to river and coastal health [NSW policy 2015]
- continue to implement National Water Initiative measures. [Queensland platform 5.62-74]

Add following 1.42:

A NSW Labor Government will:

- (1) Establish a dedicated Sydney Marine Park to protect the jewel in Sydney's crown, the world renowned Sydney Harbour;
- (2) Lift the Liberal/National Government's moratorium on the creation of any new marine parks;
- (3) Return marine sanctuary zones to full protection, so they again become areas where wildlife and habitats are protected;
- (4) Prioritise protection of breeding areas such as the islands, headlands and beaches where seabirds nest and raise their young;
- (5) Ask the NSW Scientific Committee to consider the addition of the hawksbill sea turtle to the State's Threatened Species List, to give this rare and beautiful creature the protection it deserves; and

- (6) Immediately reinstate protections on the state's Mid North Coast for the labrador of the ocean - the critically endangered Grey Nurse Shark.

Waste management and resource recovery

Add following 1.43:

Labor will:

- (1) Require Government Departments and agencies to set waste reduction targets that will be audited and reported in departmental Annual Reports
- (2) Require each industry sector to develop its own program for meeting waste reduction targets, including product design, materials used, recycling and reuse systems and infrastructure
- (3) Support sustainable markets for recovered resources and recycled materials with strong incentives to stop particular waste streams going to landfill
- (4) Insist on world's best practice in the storage of hazardous waste materials
- (5) Use landfill levies to support local government initiatives and trial projects that are proven to, or are likely to, reduce waste and increase recycling within their municipalities, particularly green waste [Victorian platform P 83]

Our natural environment

Insert following 1.46:

Labor recognises that the Convention on Biological Diversity sets a target to preserve 17% of the Australian landmass as protected area estate. Labor commits to securing and conserving representative and viable samples of all bio-geographical regions of the state in the national park estate and moving towards the target set through the Convention on Biological Diversity. [Qld platform 5.20]

An elected Labor Government will continue its legacy of National Park creation. Labor will direct the National Parks and Wildlife Service to develop funded reserve proposals and a plan for progressing the implementation of the NSW National Parks Establishment Plan. Our first priority is the creation of the Great Koala National Park on the state's north coast. Other priorities include improving the links between the various parts of the Paroo-Darling National Park to ensure this inland oasis of lakes and birdlife is safe. [2015 policy]

Beyond national parks

Labor recognises that we cannot protect the environment with National Parks alone. We must look after ecological systems across the landscape if we are to continue to have a healthy environment

Labor is committed to building a network of corridors across the landscape and across tenures that improve the ecological fabric of our state, building resilience and allowing natural processes to operate. Dangerous global warming makes this ever more important, as connectivity is essential if we are to prevent extinctions in a changing climate. Done well, this land stewardship will also support our agricultural industries by increasing the land's resilience and productivity.

Labor will:

Reinvigorate the multi-stakeholder and multi-level approach to landscape wide planning and management in NSW. We will ensure investment is targeted and effective in delivering outcomes and that rural communities are given the tools and support to protect the assets they manage;

- Deliver state wide planning and goals for natural resource management by restoring the Natural Resource Commission as a respected leader in scientifically based resource management and environmental protection. We will put a scientist at its head
- Maintain in the environment portfolio an effective, well-resourced and independent Threatened Species Scientific Committee;
- Deliver regional planning and accountability by restoring the integrity of Local Land Services as regional leaders in natural resource management. We will rebuild the strength of the governance model in which local plans and initiatives are embedded in state wide planning and reinstate a strong emphasis on community innovation and cooperation in relation to biodiversity protection; and
- Support local communities in driving protection by encouraging community level collaborations to drive outcomes. We will adopt the framework developed by the last Labor Federal Government to support community led proposals for corridor projects, integrating them into biodiversity planning. Adopted corridor projects will receive support on issues like governance and be priorities for funding. The NRC will lead these decisions. [NSW policy 2015]

Amend 1.48 as follows:

Labor recognises the intrinsic value of nature, along with the vital role forests – on public land as National Parks and State forests, and on private land - play in protecting biodiversity and water systems and in mitigating the effects of climate change. [Victorian platform p84] NSW Labor supports world heritage recognition for internationally significant NSW forests [NSW policy 2015] NSW Labor will: ...

Promoting sustainable transport

Add following 1.55:

Labor recognises that public transport inherently offers energy efficiencies. Labor will work to ensure that all electric rail operations are able to deliver energy efficiency through regenerative braking; and upgrade lighting across public transport premises for energy efficiency [new]

Electric vehicles: Labor recognises that electric vehicles offer cleaner air in urban areas, and reduced emissions when combined with clean energy sources. Labor will investigate deployment of electric buses in Government and contracted bus fleets, and provide appropriate support for deployment of electric vehicle charging technology [Tasmanian Labor, 2015 budget reply]

Developing sustainable energy

To follow 1.61:

Labor recognises the important linkages between climate change and electricity policy. Accordingly, Labor will bring those portfolios together in Government.[Based on 2015 election policy] We must pursue greater energy efficiency and cleaner sources of energy. Labor will support the growth of the renewable energy sector in NSW, creating jobs and economic opportunity. Obtaining a greater share of our energy needs from renewable sources is not only better for the environment, but promotes greater energy security *and reduced energy costs for industry, businesses and households*. [2015 NSW election policy with added words in italics]

A NSW Labor Government will establish an Office of Renewables within the Department of Premier and Cabinet, led by the Energy and Climate Change Minister to drive Labor's dual policy aims of affordable and clean energy. [NSW policy 2015]

NSW Labor will develop a comprehensive plan to progressively decarbonise Australia's energy sector, particularly in electricity generation *while providing affordable energy security to business and households*. A commitment to reinvigorate and grow renewable energy industries in NSW is essential to that plan [National platform 4.16; additional words in italics]

NSW Labor supports Australian Labor's target for at least 50% of Australia's electricity to come from renewable sources by 2030. NSW Labor will work with energy experts and stakeholders to develop NSW renewable energy targets and detailed strategies to achieve these targets. NSW Labor will take ambitious NSW targets on renewable energy, for 2030 and beyond, to the next election. [new]

Opportunities in a clean energy economy: Labor recognises that committing to sustainability will create jobs, improve living standards, support regional development and encourage growth in new industries. Labor believes this will best position NSW to remain competitive as the global economy changes. [WA platform 3.2] Labor will support the growth of the renewable energy sector in NSW, creating jobs and economic opportunity. [NSW policy 2015]

NSW has abundant clean energy resources (including solar, wind, wave and geothermal) and is home to world leading centres of clean energy research and development (including in the Hunter, Sydney and the Illawarra). [new] The Hunter, for example, has everything it needs to prosper in a low carbon future, *given appropriate policy support*: world class academic institutions and research, a strong manufacturing sector used to commercializing innovation and a highly skilled workforce. We must plan for the future and ensure we are building modern, resilient industries that provide prosperity for decades to come. [NSW policy 2015 with added words in italics]

Labor will

- (1) Support public and private sector research and development in innovative energy technologies
- (2) Encourage development, manufacture and commercialisation of renewable energy technologies
- (3) Encourage investment to increase renewable energy technology manufacturing and implementation capability [National platform 4.68]
- (4) Pursue opportunities for co-operation with the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and Australian Renewable Energy Agency, and consider needs and options as appropriate for further NSW based financing of renewable energy development and deployment [new]
- (5) Remove arbitrary and discriminatory barriers to deployment of clean energy technologies [new]
- (6) Ensure that regional NSW benefits from opportunities in a clean energy economy (including through development of the Hunter as a clean energy hub) [NSW policy 2015]
- (7) Assist fossil fuel dependent communities to diversify their economic base and capitalise on global shifts to a decarbonised economy [NSW policy 2015]

Community generation: NSW Labor supports local and community initiatives for renewable energy generation and decentralised power. [new; introduces next sentence from 2015 policy]

The Office of Renewables will reinvigorate the Renewable Energy Precincts to foster locally driven plans to increase renewables and decentralise power. Barriers to the growth of decentralised power will actively be removed, embedding these projects in the planning system, standardising contracts and approaches. Labor will establish a fund to augment renewables proposals from councils and communities. [2015 policy]

The Office of Renewables will work with the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and other sources of finance and support to further promote community energy initiatives. [new] NSW Labor will promote community generation and energy storage as part of new housing developments. [new] NSW Labor will support communities reliant on diesel fuel for electricity to transition their use to clean energy alternatives [National platform 4.49]

Household generation and purchasing of renewable energy: Labor supports renewable energy generation by households as a means of reducing power bills, increasing renewable energy supply, and reducing greenhouse emissions. [new]

NSW Labor will facilitate the establishment of an Australian first market that allows electricity customers to trade energy savings and generation into the wholesale electricity market.[NSW policy 2015] A NSW Labor Government will provide consumer protection for solar households and mandate a fair price for householders' excess solar electricity.[NSW policy 2015]

NSW Labor will seek to ensure that the electricity grid is able to equitably accept and distribute dispersed renewable energy generation. [Queensland platform 5.46] NSW Labor will make compliance with the Clean Energy Council's Code of Conduct for solar retailers mandatory for all those who wish to receive NSW government contracts. This will provide consumer protection for solar households. [NSW policy 2015]

NSW Labor will promote renewable energy generation and energy storage as part of new housing developments. [new]

NSW Labor will work with stakeholders, including industry and finance bodies, to promote access to renewable energy, including rooftop solar, for renters and apartment dwellers [new] NSW Labor will roll out rooftop solar for all suitable public housing premises [new]

The Office of Renewables will develop a strategy for facilitating household purchasing of renewable energy, particularly for households which lack suitable space for installation on their premises such as rooftop solar [based on WA platform 3.32]

Renewable energy generation on commercial properties: Labor will work with stakeholders (including the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and other finance sector bodies; small business representatives, and the property industry) to promote access to renewable energy in commercial premises, including small business – as a means for reducing costs for business, and to take advantage of available space for renewable energy generation. [new]

Government purchasing of renewable energy: Labor believes that government must lead by example in purchasing of renewable energy. [WA platform 3.33] NSW Government agencies include some very substantial power users, such as the electric rail network. [new] A NSW Labor Government will purchase electricity for NSW Government departments and agencies from renewable sources, where possible. As power contracts come up for state government electricity use, a NSW Labor Government will purchase power from renewable sources, if it can be done in a cost effective manner. Labor will investigate “reverse auctions” that have been used successfully in the ACT and will be explored in Queensland. [NSW policy 2015]

Renewable energy generation on government properties: As well as addressing greenhouse gas emissions, installation of rooftop solar power on government premises will save energy costs to the budget and the taxpayer. A Labor Government will install solar panels in all public schools in NSW [NSW policy 2015], in TAFE facilities, in public hospitals, and on all other government properties wherever appropriate, and where possible will accompany this with installation of energy storage. [new]

Planning and regulatory barriers to wind energy: A NSW Labor Government will remove the Coalition Government's draconian restrictions on approvals for wind farm developments. NSW Labor will facilitate a fair go for the wind industry, the fastest growing, most mature and cheapest renewable energy source. Wind farms will be subject to usual planning laws for developments of the applicable size and scale. Instead of leaving the industry in limbo with unclear guidelines, Labor will provide clarity for the wind industry and the community. A NSW Labor Government will ensure that the wind industry properly consults with affected communities as well as provides an adequate and shared financial benefit from the prosperity generated.[NSW policy 2015]

Burning native forests is not clean or renewable energy: Burning of native forest timber and cleared vegetation for electricity production is not clean or renewable energy, and forms no part of a credible strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Labor will reinstate the prohibition on burning native forests and cleared vegetation for electricity. [NSW 2015 policy]

Uranium: NSW Labor has long opposed the exploration and extraction of uranium in this State, and its export from NSW. We remain unconvinced of any benefits nuclear power may bring, and remain mindful of the challenges caused by how to manage and store spent fuel rods and radioactive waste that lasts many lifetimes. A Labor Government will maintain a ban on uranium exploration, extraction and export. [NSW policy 2015]

Retirement of fossil fuelled power stations: A NSW Labor Government, through COAG, will initiate a national framework for the decommissioning of obsolete coal fired generation plants. [NSW policy 2015] Labor will work to ensure that (1) those coal fired generation plants within the national electricity market with the highest emissions intensity are retired first (including through regulatory and pricing mechanisms) (2) rehabilitation of obsolete power plants is funded by their owners and operators, and not left to the taxpayer (3) just transitions are provided for affected workers and communities [new]

Just transitions: The transition to a clean energy economy carries both opportunities and uncertainty for workers. Labor will ensure jobs in the clean energy economy provide security, decent wages and conditions. Labor will not only address the challenges but will pursue all opportunities to modernise our economy, build more and better jobs and build a future that is clearer, healthier, more equitable and ultimately sustainable. [National platform 4.3]

Growing diverse regional economies in areas such as the Illawarra and the Hunter Valley is necessary to make the transition to a clean energy economy while ensuring this is a just transition for affected workers and communities. [National platform 4.22]

Labor will work with communities, unions and industry to develop a comprehensive regional development approach which supports the growth of sustainable new industries, technologies and practices. [National platform 4.22]

Labor will ensure that NSW plays its part in making training and skills programs available for workers wishing to build skills in energy efficient technologies and transition to new, clean energy or low pollution industries; capitalising on the significant new job opportunities

across the renewable energy supply chain; and developing structural adjustment strategies and investment for communities impacted by change in the sector [National platform 4.28]

To follow 1.63:

Energy efficiency: NSW Labor recognises that improving energy efficiency offers important opportunities to reduce greenhouse emissions, as well as reducing power bills. [WA platform 3.16] NSW Labor will provide national leadership in revitalising national strategies on energy efficiency [new] Labor will implement energy efficiency measures across all areas of State responsibilities, including water supply, distribution and use; energy distribution and use, including residential, commercial and industrial use; government services, procurement and building works [WA platform 3.17-19] land use planning and design [Qld platform 4.96-97]; public transport; health; and education [new]

Government: A NSW Labor Government will develop, no later than its first year of office, a comprehensive strategy for energy efficiency in Government agencies and departments, taking into account initiatives in other Australian jurisdictions such as Victoria, including measures for central budget financing and repayment of initial costs, and reporting of energy use and emissions [new]

Health: A NSW Labor Government will deploy energy efficient lighting to all public hospitals with savings directed to health services in the local area. [NSW policy 2015]

Education: A NSW Labor Government will deploy energy efficient lighting to all public schools and TAFE facilities, and pursue other areas of energy efficiency in education including heating and cooling, with savings after payback of initial costs directed back to education. [new, supports 2015 policy re renewable energy for schools]

Public housing: A NSW Labor Government will institute a comprehensive program for upgrading public housing for energy efficiency [new]

1.64: Amend as follows:

Households: Labor is committed to strategic household energy and energy efficiency responses to help reduce utility bills for families and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. [Vic platform p 78] Labor will:

- establish a uniform building code based on energy conservation principles for new homes and major renovations, and will work with local government in order to secure compliance with this building code allowing for regional variations of the code based on climatic and other determinants. The code will emphasise reduction in energy consumption and will provide guidelines on correct orientation, insulation and solar access for solar energy collectors. [NSW platform 1.64]
- Consider a target, and support programs, for improving the energy efficiency standards of existing homes [new]
- Actively promote information about the energy rating of homes that are sold or leased [new]
- Support programs and incentives to improve the energy efficiency of social housing [new]
- Investigate innovative funding models and incentives to assist residential tenants and landlords to improve the energy efficiency of homes and to assist with the installation of solar photovoltaic rooftop systems [Vic platform p 78]
- Investigate finance options for energy efficiency upgrades for low income households [ACT platform pars 496, 500]

- Support mandatory minimum national energy efficiency standards for all major appliances
- Aim to achieve a new 'One Million Stars' goal to improve the cumulative star rating of all NSW homes by at least one million additional star rating points, and achieve this through a range of measures including incentives for more efficient appliances and building materials, information for buyers and renters, strategic funding and regulatory support [Vic platform p81]

To follow 1.64:

Commercial buildings: To address energy costs for business (particularly small business) as well as to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Labor will institute a comprehensive program to promote energy efficiency upgrades by owners of commercial buildings [expands Vic platform p 81]

8.10 Land degradation

Amend as follows :

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

Insert following 8.10:

Land clearing: Labor will prevent broad-acre clearing and clearing of endangered and threatened regional ecosystems and ecologically sensitive areas. Labor will establish programs to revegetate depleted landscapes and ecosystems. [Qld platform 5.50-51]