

Submissions for NSW Labor Conference 2018

1. Platform amendments

Environment institutions

To address Liberal / National damage to NSW NPWS and other environment management and protection institutions, amend first dot point in 1.27 to read:

- Management, governance and decision making structures and responsibility, including the independence and resourcing of institutions involved in environmental protection

Climate change

Insert in 1.31 [LEAN submission for 2017 Conference; approved by Policy Committee but omitted from published Platform]:

To provide a long-term framework for climate change mitigation and adaptation, Labor in government will introduce a Climate Change Act, reflecting the commitments in this Platform and taking into account the Victorian Labor Government's Climate Change Act 2017.

Environmental accounts

Insert in 1.31 [LEAN 2017 submission for 2017 Conference; approved by Policy Committee but omitted from published Platform]:

[Labor will] Investigate establishing state- wide Environmental Accounts, and will seek co-operation with the Federal government and other State governments towards national and regional environmental accounts, as a path to accurately tracking our environmental assets to inform policy making and planning.

Mining rehabilitation

In 1.46 amend

with securities being provided

to read

with fully adequate securities being provided as a precondition of project commencement and for any subsequent project expansion

Disasters and climate change

At 1.49 after

warmer average temperatures

Include

longer and more extreme periods of high bushfire risk,

Coastal lands, rivers and wetlands

In dot points at 1.52 add

- Rejection of proposals for damming of rivers which would compromise World Heritage areas
- Support for initiatives to improve water security including support for research and investment in wastewater recycling, desalination, stormwater harvesting and efficient water infrastructure

At 1.56 insert additional dot point:

- Review the adequacy of other marine protection measures

Waste Management and Resource Recovery

In 1.59 add to last current dot point

- and reduce generation of plastic waste

and insert an additional dot point following: [Labor will]

- Set an example by ceasing the use by NSW Labor organisations of balloons in outdoor events, due to the potential for them to escape and become marine or river waste.

Heritage protection

At 1.64 amend

NSW Labor supports world heritage recognition for internationally significant NSW forests.

to

NSW Labor supports world heritage recognition for internationally significant NSW forests and landscapes.

Transport

To tie together specific commitments already set out regarding transport sustainability, e.g. at 1.80 and 1.82, insert in 1.72:

NSW Labor will promote decarbonisation of all forms of transport

At 1.82 after

NSW Labor recognises that electric vehicles offer cleaner air in urban areas, and reduced emissions when combined with clean energy sources.

insert [based on WA Labor platform and ACT Labor policy]

NSW Labor supports low and zero emission vehicles becoming the standard for the State Government vehicle fleet. NSW Labor will investigate and implement appropriate programmes to encourage the uptake of low and zero emission vehicles and vessels across all modes and categories of transport .

Energy storage target

In 1.80 on renewable energy targets (noting developments in energy storage technology, affordability and policy including South Australian Labor's 25% storage target and NSW Labor's commitment to large scale public investment in renewable energy and storage) amend

NSW Labor will work with energy experts and stakeholders to develop NSW renewable energy targets and detailed strategies to achieve these targets.

to read

NSW Labor in government will work with energy experts and stakeholders to develop NSW renewable energy generation and storage targets and detailed strategies to achieve these targets, with credible pathways to at least 50% of generation by 2030.

Environment and government procurement

Consistent with commitment in 1.31 of all areas of administration to environmental sustainability, supplement reference to environment and procurement at 3.34 in "Promoting strong industries" with provision, either at 3.34 or in main government procurement section at 3.28 – 3.27, as follows:

Labor will ensure that procurement by government, or in association with government including through grants, contracts or other mechanisms, appropriately incorporates environmental sustainability.

A more efficient tax system

In "A more efficient tax system" at 3.28 - 3.30 insert:

Labor recognises that environmental damage can distort efficient economic outcomes, through imposition of uncompensated costs on current and future members of the community, businesses and other economic actors. A healthy environment provides very large economic benefits in ecosystem services. Labor will review the taxation system for environmental impacts, including reviewing options for incentives and removal of disincentives for environmentally beneficial practices, and options for disincentives and removal of incentives for environmentally damaging practices.

Promoting strong industries

At 3.35 amend

NSW Labor will encourage the export of energy technology such as efficient, coal- powered generation to trading partners.

to read

NSW Labor will encourage the export of clean energy and energy efficiency technologies to trading partners.

A professional financial services industry

In "A professional financial services industry" include at 3.62

Labor will consider measures to ensure appropriate disclosure and consideration of issues of climate and environmental risk.

Utilising our natural resources

Replace 3.88

NSW Labor supports continued research and development into alternative and more economical uses of coal.

with

NSW Labor supports continued research and development to identify economic opportunities for NSW in a carbon constrained world.

2. Resolutions

New national environment laws and institutions

This Conference

Recalling with appreciation the leadership of Labor governments (Federal, State and Territory) on environmental protection

Endorsing the assessment by Labor, in its 2016 Federal election policy, that protecting Australia's unique environment is not a constraint on Australia's prosperity, but an asset which underpins it

Conscious that environment protection is core business for Labor, as the party of major national reforms in Australia and as a matter of inter-generational equity

Alarmed by evidence, including in successive State of the Environment reports, of environmental threats and decline in Australia

Deeply concerned by the actions of the Abbott and Turnbull governments in retreating from environmental leadership; reducing funding for public sector institutions and civil society organisations involved in environmental protection; and seeking to diminish democratic participation in decisions affecting the environment

Noting with appreciation the work of the Labor Environment Action Network to prioritise and enhance Labor's commitments to 21st century environment laws and an independent national environment protection structure, and the endorsement of this campaign by **over xxx [NUMBER TO BE UPDATED AT CONFERENCE]** Labor local branches and other Party units nationally

1. *Calls on* an incoming Federal Labor government to
 - (a) re-assert national leadership and responsibility for pro-active environment protection
 - (b) in its first term develop, and seek passage of, reformed environment laws, and institute a well-resourced, science based, independent environment protection structure
 - (c) re-assert protection and respect for principles of democratic accountability and protection of rights for community involvement in environmental matters.
2. *Calls on* NSW Labor to
 - (a) Co-operate with Labor in other jurisdictions to revitalise a national agenda and strategies for environment protection
 - (b) assist Federal Labor in the development and implementation of reformed national environment laws and an independent environment protection structure
 - (c) examine needs for reform of its own environment laws and institutions, in line with the principles endorsed by branches in LEAN's campaign