

# **Australian Labor Party NSW Branch Platform 2017: Commitments on environment, climate and energy - together with LEAN submissions for amendment 2018**

From chapter 1, "Building Sustainable Communities" and excerpts from other chapters. LEAN submissions for 2018 Conference in **green highlight**

Full version of Platform available at [http://www.nswlabor.org.au/important\\_documents](http://www.nswlabor.org.au/important_documents)

## **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 liveable 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. 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.

1.2 NSW Labor will promote sustainable energy production and consumption characterised by energy conservation, innovation and the supply of renewable energy.

1.3 NSW Labor will work cooperatively with local government to build sustainable communities.

### **Promoting Sustainable Development**

1.4 NSW Labor will promote sustainable development in metropolitan and regional centres to ensure citizens enjoy livable communities. Development must support affordable housing, employment opportunities and access to affordable public transport. Labor will achieve this by ensuring that designated transport corridors are reserved through legislation before development takes place. Further, Labor will require all new land releases to be assessed in terms of their impact on the environment, the availability of employment and services as well as an assessment of alternative options.

1.5 NSW Labor will implement selective urban consolidation in major metropolitan centres. This will allow resources to be expended on upgrading services within established urban areas and permit more efficient expenditure on selected growth centres outside existing metropolitan areas.

1.6 NSW Labor will promote regional development and greater opportunities for regional communities by ensuring regions are an attractive option for industry by providing access to important services such as ports, electricity and rail in an efficient and cost effective manner. NSW Labor will provide government assistance in the form of subsidies, grants or rebates for firms proposing to relocate to regional areas only in certain circumstances.

*[Omitted here: Affordable Housing for all 1.7 – 1.25; 1.29]*

### **A Sustainable Environment**

1.26 Open and transparent environmental management systems are essential for effective decision making, monitoring, assessment and reporting of environmental performance and outcomes.

1.27 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 and resourcing 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.

1.28 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.

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1.30 NSW Labor supports the creation of communities in which citizens have a healthy environment with clean air, clean water, safe food, abundant wildlife and green space. NSW Labor supports policies which will improve living standards, create jobs and encourage sustainable industries. In regional areas NSW Labor will aim for regional delivery of natural resource management consistent with national priorities for sustainable development, sustainable agricultural practices and opportunities for new industries. NSW Labor supports strong measures to avoid dangerous climate change. Labor recognises that climate change poses significant risks to economic growth. 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.

1.31 Labor recognises the critical interrelationship between the environment, society and the economy. 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. 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. Labor in government will:

- 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)
- 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.
- Commit all relevant areas of policy and administration to develop climate change mitigation and adaptation plans.

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 .

NSW Labor will take an active role in equitably transitioning NSW to a renewable powered state. NSW Labor does not support any form of public funding on extraction of new fossil fuels.

1.32 NSW Labor will continue to work with farmers and rural developers to ensure that farming practice is ecologically sustainable.

1.33 NSW Labor will maintain responsibility for all environment and planning functions including environmental assessment and protection, heritage conservation, national parks and wildlife protection and administration, coastal protection, land use and resource planning, pollution control and waste management.

1.34 Labor will support enhanced national standards on air quality and monitoring and reporting of air pollution.

1.35 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.

1.36 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.

1.37 No activities are to be undertaken without a full and effective assessment of any likely significant environmental impacts, and such assessments should lead to the imposition of specific controls to mitigate adverse impacts.

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.

1.38 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.

1.39 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.

1.40 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

### **Land Use and Resource Management**

1.41 NSW Labor will ensure that land use decisions recognise the needs of the whole community for land for a variety of different, and changing purposes, and the desirability of multiple uses of land.

1.42 With respect to Landcare NSW Labor will:

- Provide an integrated catchment management approach to policy development and to the allocation of funds.
- Take action to prevent desertification, salination and erosion of land.
- Rehabilitate degraded land.
- Facilitate re-forestation.
- Research land management and rehabilitation.
- Enhance biodiversity through native vegetation retention.
- Implement native vegetation retention legislation.
- Promote sustainable land use practices.

1.43 NSW Labor will develop a Resource Management Plan for the State, and enhance a regular process of 'State of the Environment' reporting and develop a State Conservation Strategy in consultation with environmental groups, trade unions and industry.

1.44 NSW Labor will ensure that mining is considered as one of a number of competing land uses and not as the pre-eminent use, and be subject to full environmental impact assessments.

1.45 NSW Labor will assess mining proposals with attention to the following considerations:

- Possible alternative land uses.
- Short and long term economic effects at the local, regional and state level.
- Likely effects on the physical environment, particularly water and air quality.

1.46 NSW Labor will ensure that the costs of rehabilitating affected land to pre-mining condition or a condition suitable for an agreed subsequent use are recognised as a cost of mining to be borne by those undertaking the mining with fully adequate securities being provided as a precondition of project commencement and for any subsequent project expansion .

## Climate Change

1.47 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. Key principles and goals are to:

- Raise awareness of climate issues within the broader community.
- Promote understanding of the likely impacts on NSW, and identify adaptation strategies.
- Limit and reduce the growth of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Promote climate change partnerships by government, individuals, industry, business and community groups.
- Reduce business uncertainties by establishing carbon constraints to promote new investment and innovation.
- Identify strategic areas for cooperative work with other Australian jurisdictions including a national emissions trading scheme.

1.48 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. Within Australia, NSW must also do its fair share. NSW is responsible for 31% of the country's economy. Labor recognises that the relatively high current emissions intensity of the NSW economy presents challenges, but also presents opportunities for emissions reductions. NSW needs to seize the opportunities opening up in a clean energy economy, and avoid being left behind. NSW Labor will pursue a comprehensive strategy to achieve these objectives 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.

1.49 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, longer and more extreme periods of high bushfire risk, and more frequent and intense extreme weather events including heatwaves, storms and flash flooding.

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. Labor will give special attention to infrastructure projects which help affected communities and industries deal with change. Labor will require climate adaptation and resilience plans for all major infrastructures owned or regulated by the NSW government; and promote national climate adaptation and resilience standards and planning for other major infrastructure.

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
- 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
- work with community organisations (such as sporting bodies) to identify and address their vulnerability to climate change.

Labor will ensure that health policy and planning takes into account the impacts of climate change.

1.50 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.

1.51 NSW Labor recognises that climate change will affect both regional and urban NSW. Labor will commission a Climate Change in our Regions Paper that will comprehensively investigate the effects of climate change in Regional NSW, and propose prospective solutions.

### **Coastal Lands, Rivers and Wetlands**

1.52 NSW Labor will maintain an advisory committee comprised of representatives from relevant government departments and authorities, local government and suitably qualified individuals to advise on the:

- Protection and restoration of the coastal environment and its resources.
- Balanced utilisation and conservation of the coastal region and its resources.
- Co-ordination of the policies and activities of public authorities relating to the coastal region.
- Acquisition of lands in the coastal region for coastal protection, access or enjoyment.

NSW Labor will manage New South Wales rivers and streams with the following principles:

- Recognition that rivers and river systems are complex, have wide ranging interactions with surrounding ecosystems.
- The need to protect remaining wild and scenic rivers.
- Rejection of proposals for damming of rivers which would compromise World Heritage areas
- The need to apportion water in a way which maintains the river itself.
- The management of salinity.
- Recognition of the importance of flood flows to wetlands and riverine ecosystems.
- The need to ensure that the provision of environmental flows is given priority.
- The need to protect river catchment to prevent silting and maintain water quality with regard to runoff and the effects of grazing stock.
- Full investigation of measures to improve the efficiency of water use and reticulation before constructing or extending dams for urban water supply.
- Support for initiatives to improve water security including support for research and investment in wastewater recycling, desalination, stormwater harvesting and efficient water infrastructure
- 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.
- Continue to implement National Water Initiative measures.

1.54 NSW Labor will co-operate with the Commonwealth and other States in the management of the Murray-Darling River system with particular attention to river flows and salinity.

1.55 NSW Labor will maintain a policy of controlling development in flood liable areas and conduct economic analyses of the relative costs of control and irrigation measures and flood effects, including design criteria for development in flood affected lands.

1.56 NSW Labor will recognise the value of coastal and inland wetlands as ecosystems essential to the protection of particular species of flora and fauna and as breeding grounds for species of birds and aquatic fauna that are of value in pest control or of commercial significance and protect and preserve such wetlands.

A NSW Labor Government will:

- Establish a dedicated Sydney Marine Park to protect the jewel in Sydney's crown, the world renowned Sydney Harbour;
- Lift the Liberal/National Government's moratorium on the creation of any new marine parks;
- Return marine sanctuary zones to full protection, so they again become areas where wildlife and habitats are protected;
- Prioritise protection of breeding areas such as the islands, headlands and beaches where seabirds nest and raise their young;
- 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
- Immediately reinstate protections on the state's Mid North Coast for the Labrador of the ocean – the critically endangered Grey Nurse Shark
- **Review the adequacy of other marine protection measures.**

1.57 NSW 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 biogeographical regions of the state in the national park estate and moving towards the target set through the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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.

1.58 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 statewide 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.

### **Waste Management and Resource Recovery**

1.59 NSW Labor supports a waste management focus to provide a clear and consistent regulatory and policy framework that minimises harm to the environment and delivers greater waste avoidance and resource recovery. This framework will use a mix of legislative, policy, educative and economic tools to encourage waste avoidance and the further recovery of resources.

Labor will:

- Require Government Departments and agencies to set waste reduction targets that will be audited and reported in departmental Annual Reports.
- 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.
- Support sustainable markets for recovered resources and recycled materials with strong incentives to stop particular waste streams going to landfill.
- Insist on world's best practice in the storage of hazardous waste materials.
- 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.
- Legislate to ban single use lightweight plastic shopping bags
- Pursue appropriate means to reduce other plastic pollution entering the environment, in particular our rivers and marine environments, and reduce generation of plastic waste.
- 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.

[Note: 1.60 omitted; repeats 1.58 in printed version of platform due to printing error]

1.61 NSW Labor believes that the manufacture, use, storage, disposal, import and export of such chemicals should be subject to strict statutory controls including outright prohibition where appropriate. Such controls should have the primary objective of preventing harm to human health and to the environment.

### **Our Natural Environment**

1.62 Labor is committed to strategic household energy and energy efficiency responses to help reduce utility bills for families and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. 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.
- Consider a target, and support programs, for improving the energy efficiency standards of existing homes

- Actively promote information about the energy rating of homes that are sold or leased
- Support programs and incentives to improve the energy efficiency of social housing
- 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
- Investigate finance options for energy efficiency upgrades for low income households
- 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

1.63 NSW Labor will:

- Oppose mineral exploration and mining in national parks and other reserves.
- Oppose any forestry operations in national parks and other reserves.
- Ensure that the ecological integrity and biological diversity of national parks, conservation reserves and the biosphere are maintained.

1.64 NSW Labor will protect our State Forests. NSW Labor will:

- Ensure the dedication of viable reserves, representative of all native forest ecosystems in the State and minimise further clearing of native forests.
- Ensure that where forests are determined to have a timber production role, the forest resource is managed on environmentally sound sustainable yield and multiple use lines.
- Forests NSW property assets are to be maintained and kept under the control and ownership of the NSW State Government. Any excess Forests NSW assets are to be transferred to National Parks and Wildlife Services with suitable allocation of resources (labour and capital) to support its operations.
- Forests NSW (or any other name by which it may be known by in the future) is to remain a wholly owned and operated Government entity.

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

1.65 NSW has a diverse and rich flora and fauna. NSW Labor will:

- Take action to preserve the genetic diversity of the State's flora, fauna and ecosystems.
- Provide sufficient resources for assessing the status of flora and fauna and monitoring the populations of endangered species.
- Research and develop measures to control feral fauna and introduced flora which harm natural ecosystems.
- Encourage integrated pest management with an emphasis on biological control.
- Continue to ban duck hunting in New South Wales. Licences shall be issued for crop damage limitation where appropriate.

1.66 NSW Labor will investigate the consequences of broad area control burning and develop alternative approaches to fire management, ensuring that techniques applied in natural areas, such as selective strip burning, are consistent with their maintenance as natural areas. Further NSW Labor will control new development in areas of high bushfire risk.

Hazard reduction and fire operations undertaken within national parks and forestry property assets are to be undertaken by the respective Government agencies (NPWS and Forests NSW) with support, if required, by the fire brigade and rural fire services. The State Government is to ensure that employment levels at these agencies (NPWS and Forests NSW) are to be maintained so that all required fire activities as well as other operating activities can be successfully undertaken by Government employees within these agencies

1.67 NSW Labor will develop and fund a series of 'great walks' in NSW, that highlight our remarkable natural landscape. NSW Labor will develop and fund a series of rail trails on disused railway tracks in NSW for cycling and walking. Rail corridors used in this way should be kept in public hands as a measure to allow future use.

### **Protecting our Heritage**

1.68 NSW Labor will maintain legislation and the capacity of government agencies to identify, preserve and protect items of environmental heritage including buildings, works, relics or places of historic, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic significance for the State and items of Aboriginal heritage.

1.69 NSW Labor will preserve, protect and maintain the national estate by the retention of:

- The Heritage Council at State level, to protect historically, architecturally and culturally significant buildings.
- A State Heritage Inventory. The inventory should list all items of State heritage significance and be available to the public.

1.70 NSW Labor will:

- Protect, preserve and maintain the National Estate.
- Investigate the social aspects of population distribution and mobility in relation to the distribution of services and facilities.
- Undertake planning of distribution of economic activity and population.
- Regulate land use.
- Ensure that services and infrastructure are provided in a timely, co-ordinated and cost effective manner.

### **Promoting Sustainable Transport**

1.71 A key factor in creating livable communities is access to transport. NSW Labor supports the development of integrated transport systems to meet the needs of commuters, road users, industry and freight operators in metropolitan areas, growth areas and country NSW.

1.72 NSW Labor believes that transport systems should be environmentally sustainable and energy efficient and be planned to meet projected needs. NSW Labor will promote decarbonisation of all forms of transport. NSW Labor supports the provision of safe, reliable and secure transport services and NSW Labor is committed to improving transport service provision for regional and rural areas of NSW.

1.73 NSW Labor believes all citizens should have access to affordable, reliable public transport. To achieve this NSW Labor will:

- Upgrade metropolitan bus services including the development of strategic bus corridors and bus ways.
- Develop new commuter rail services including heavy, light and metro systems.
- Upgrade ferry services.
- Better integrate public transport modes.
- Invest in regional transport.

1.74 NSW Labor will build better roads, address congestion by a range of measures including the provision of bus lanes and transit lanes and improve road safety.

1.75 NSW Labor will improve freight links to drive economic growth and expand export opportunities for NSW businesses and industries.

1.76 NSW Labor recognises that emphasis should be given to shifting freight transport from road to rail.

1.77 NSW Labor will support the development of alternative transport modes, which are environmentally friendly, and energy efficient, such as car sharing schemes and cycle ways for bicycle riders.

1.78 NSW Labor believes that commuter and public transport workers have to the right to be and feel safe at all times on public transport. NSW Labor also notes that concerns about public transport safety can discourage people from using local services, and therefore from participating in their local community.

Public transport workers (including workers in the point-to-point transport sector) in NSW, however, are too often subjected to threats, harassment, and assaults. NSW Labor notes that the South Australian Labor Government has made offences against public transport workers an aggravating factor under that state's Criminal Law Act.

NSW Labor supports a multi-pronged approach to reducing violence and anti-social behaviour on government-operated public transport services. This includes:

- Increasing the number of Transit Officers and security staff on the public transport network;
- Introducing tough penalties for people who assault, harass or threaten public transport workers; and
- Consulting with public transport workers on other measures to improve their safety at work.

### **Developing Sustainable Energy**

1.79 NSW Labor will:

1. Ensure 50% of NSW energy generation comes from renewables by 2030.
2. Publicly invest in large-scale renewable energy by creating a state-owned corporation, NSW Renewable Energy Futures (REF) that will put the public and its interests first in NSW's transition.
3. NSW REF will build, invest, own, and operate largescale renewable energy and storage technologies, whilst modernising the grid.
4. NSW REF will have an initial investment of \$1.5 billion, which will be sourced either from the sale of Snowy Hydro, or through the issuing of green bonds.
5. NSW REF will maximise the speed and efficiency of the energy transition, reduce prices for consumers, maximise job opportunities in the future economy for regional NSW, and deliver dividends for the people of NSW in a shared future.
6. Investigate creating a Renewable Energy and Technology Hub in the Hunter region.

1.80 Labor recognises the important linkages between climate change and electricity policy. Accordingly, Labor will bring those portfolios together in Government. 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.

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 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.

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 generation and storage targets and detailed strategies to achieve these targets with credible pathways to at least 50% of generation by 2030. NSW Labor will take ambitious NSW targets on renewable energy, for 2030 and beyond, to the next election.

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. Labor will support the growth of the renewable energy sector in NSW, creating jobs and economic opportunity.

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).

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.

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
- (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
- (5) Remove arbitrary and discriminatory barriers to deployment of clean energy technologies
- (6) Ensure that regional NSW benefits from opportunities in a clean energy economy (including through development of the Hunter as a clean energy hub)
- (7) Assist fossil fuel dependent communities to diversify their economic base and capitalise on global shifts to a decarbonised economy. NSW Labor will take an active role in equitably transitioning NSW to a renewable powered state. NSW Labor does not support any form of public funding on extraction of new fossil fuels.
- (8) Consider and pursue as appropriate, opportunities for public investment in, and ownership of, renewable energy generation facilities and supporting technologies, including storage.

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.

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. NSW Labor will promote community generation and energy storage as part of new housing developments. NSW Labor will support communities reliant on diesel fuel for electricity to transition their use to clean energy alternatives

Labor supports renewable energy generation by households as a means of reducing power bills, increasing renewable energy supply, and reducing greenhouse emissions.

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. A NSW Labor Government will provide consumer protection for solar households and mandate a fair price for householders' excess solar electricity.

NSW Labor will seek to ensure that the electricity grid is able to equitably accept and distribute dispersed renewable energy generation. 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 Labor will promote renewable energy generation and energy storage as part of new housing developments.

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 NSW Labor will roll out rooftop solar for all suitable public housing premises.

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.

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.

Labor believes that government must lead by example in purchasing of renewable energy. NSW Government agencies include some very substantial power users, such as the electric rail network.

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.

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 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.

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.

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 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.

A NSW Labor Government, through COAG, will initiate a national framework for the decommissioning of obsolete coal fired generation plants. 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

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.

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.

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.

NSW Labor supports:

- The establishment of a fully funded and resourced Just Transition Authority (JTA) with responsibility for planning, education and re-training of affected workers in the fossil fuel supply chain and carbon intensive energy sector.
- Oversight of low emission energy job creation and worker transition reflecting industry standards and conditions.
- The JTA to work with national and interstate governments to develop a best practice Just Transition framework to support a low carbon economy while providing fairness and opportunity to industry stakeholders including those working in the sector.
- NSW Labor to support these objectives by committing all necessary state and national based resources in order to realise the objectives of a Just Transition.

NSW 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;

1.81 NSW Labor believes all communities should have access to reliable affordable energy supplied from increasingly renewable energy sources. NSW Labor's energy policy is based on two broad principles:

- Energy is a basic commodity and necessity that needs to be exploited efficiently and distributed equitably, while still allowing for appropriate returns to be made to either public or private investors.

- Energy production, distribution and use must be carried out in such a way that ecological and environmental constraints are not compromised.

NSW Labor supports a long-term, ecologically sustainable energy economy.

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

NSW Labor recognises that electric vehicles offer cleaner air in urban areas, and reduced emissions when combined with clean energy sources. 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. Labor will investigate deployment of electric buses in Government and contracted bus fleets, and provide appropriate support for deployment of electric vehicle charging technology. NSW Labor will preference local procurement to maximise job creation opportunities and minimise transportation.

1.83 Badgerys Creek Airport (BCA) has the potential of providing much needed infrastructure and job opportunities for the residents of Western Sydney. For far too long, this region has been neglected of properly coordinated planning regarding road and rail infrastructure to support the additional one million people projected over next 20 years moving into the region as well as the consequences of an 80 million passenger movement plus freight airport.

For an airport to be successful in Western Sydney it must be properly planned and budgeted for to address the needs of the region. These issues include:

- The development of a best practice noise mitigation plan, including the creation of a night time no-fly zone over communities, recognising that it is possible to ensure simultaneous operations for take offs and landings to the south-west of the runway, while stopping flights over residential communities at night;
- The establishment of Western Sydney Infrastructure and Jobs Development Authority that will develop new rail lines linking:
  - Richmond, Penrith BCA to Campbelltown;
  - The new north-west line, Blacktown, BCA to Liverpool;
  - dedicated rail lines to central and Kingsford-Smith Airport.
- The construction of motorways linking western Sydney to Sydney as well as around western Sydney;
- An appropriate Environmental Impact Statement that includes flight paths and other relevant issues not considered in the construction EIS;
- Noise abatement strategies to accommodate any home, school or health facility in accordance with existing legislation that applies to all airports;
- Australian made products used in the construction of the airport and infrastructure;
- Youth and long-term unemployment programs to be part of the jobs and training provided in this project, including that 10 per cent of employees must be apprentices from Western Sydney;
- An appropriate fuel line be established being either pipeline or rail;
- Western Sydney health data demonstrates the highest levels of cardio-vascular diseases, all-cancer rates; respiratory illness; diabetes in the State. The airport and population will contribute adversely to health of this region and therefore a funded plan to address these issues must be addressed.

- Proper community consultation to take place.

NSW Labor commits in ensuring the above points are appropriately dealt with.

1.84 NSW Labor recognises that utilities, including energy providers, supply essential services and will ensure that energy providers provide high quality service to clients and adequate assistance to low income earners or those suffering from hardship. NSW Labor will continue to:

- Make available, through non-government organisations, emergency assistance to clients temporarily unable to pay electricity bills.
- Review concessions on electricity accounts and security deposits for low income earners with a view to improving equity of access to these forms of assistance.
- Ensure that customers can gain a stay in disconnection of energy supplies on the grounds of hardship.

1.85 Consistent with Labor's long-term aim of a sustainable energy economy, NSW Labor will continue to give high priority to energy conservation, and to the development and introduction of renewable energy sources and energy technology.

NSW Labor recognises that improving energy efficiency offers important opportunities to reduce greenhouse emissions, as well as reducing power bills. NSW Labor will provide national leadership in revitalising national strategies on energy efficiency. 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;
- land use planning and design;
- public transport; health; and education;

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

A NSW Labor Government will deploy energy efficient lighting to all public hospitals with savings directed to health services in the local area

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 A NSW Labor Government will institute a comprehensive program for upgrading public housing for energy efficiency

1.86 NSW Labor will establish a uniform building code based on energy conservation principles 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.

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.

[Omitted here: 1.87 – 1.93 Working Cooperatively with Local Government; 1.94 – 1.103 Better Local Governance; 1.104 – 1.106 Promoting Arts and Culture in the Community ]

## **2. STRONGER DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

### **Supporting the Elderly**

2.25 NSW Labor will ensure that the particular vulnerabilities of older people are addressed in planning for heatwaves and other extreme weather events.

## **3. OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE**

### **Building a Modern Economy**

3.2 NSW Labor's economic objectives include:

- Maintaining full employment.
- Sustainably growing the NSW economy.
- Creating a fairer and more economically equal society, which requires the redistribution of income, wealth and economic power, and government led infrastructure delivery. Services should be provided on the basis of need.
- Combating poverty and supporting disadvantaged NSW citizens with adequate welfare support and services.
- Preparing the NSW economy for the transition to a lower carbon economy.

### **Building 21st Century Infrastructure**

3.7 NSW Labor's infrastructure policy will be guided by the following seven principles:

- Population growth and distribution.
- Ageing and longevity.
- Technological change.
- Industry and commercial developments.
- Cost pressures, economic development and employment stimulation.
- Infrastructure renewal.
- Environmental issues.

### **Delivering Better Government Services**

3.13 NSW Labor will ensure that NSW budget measures will include both the traditional budget measures such as the Gross State Product, as well as broad measures of the community's economic, social and environmental wellbeing.

*[Omitted here: Government Procurement 3.25 – 3.27 . Note reference below at 3.34]*

### **A more efficient tax system**

*[Omitted here: Existing material under A more efficient tax system: 3.28 -3.30]*

3.30. Add: 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**

3.31 In assessing the desirability of assisting the establishment of new industry, or the expansion or diversification of existing industry, NSW Labor will consider the:

- Extent to which employment is promoted particularly in economically disadvantaged regions.
- Likely economic viability and prospects for expansion of the industry.
- Willingness of the industry to work within State Government planning objectives and policy.

- State revenues likely to be generated.
- Impact on the environment.
- Willingness of the industry to implement cooperative and consultative industrial relations policies.

3.34 NSW Labor will facilitate the growth of environmentally friendly products and technology. This will include realising the full potential of government procurement in assisting the development of more environmentally friendly products and technologies. Labor will ensure that procurement by, or in association with, government appropriately incorporates environmental sustainability.

3.35 NSW Labor will encourage the export of clean energy and energy efficiency technologies ~~technology such as efficient, coal-powered generation~~ to trading partners.

*[Omitted here: Regional development 3.43. Note however references in Chapter 1 regarding opportunities in clean energy economy]*

*[Omitted here: Supporting small business 3.44. Note however references in Chapter 1 regarding participation in clean energy economy]*

*[Omitted here: Asset sales and private sector infrastructure 3.35 – 3.50]*

*[Omitted here: Co-operatives 3.51-3.52. Note however provisions on community energy in Chapter 1]*

*[Omitted here: Consumer affairs 3.53 -3.59 . Note however provisions regarding consumer protection for solar households at 1.80]*

## **A Professional financial services industry**

*[Omitted here: Existing material under A Professional financial services industry 3.60 – 3.70]*

At 3.70 add: Labor will consider measures to ensure appropriate disclosure and consideration of issues of climate and environmental risk.

*[Omitted here: Investing in innovation 3.71 – 3.79]*

## **Utilising our Natural Resources**

3.80 NSW Labor's minerals policy is based on three broad principles:

- The mineral resources of Australia belong to the people, who should share in the benefits obtained from the development of those resources.
- Guidelines must be developed for mineral exploitation to establish a stable climate for long life investment.
- Domestic minerals policy must be based on recognition of the:
  - need to increase the efficiency with which resources are used.
  - finite nature of mineral resources.
  - need to extract and use resources within environmental constraints.
  - need to provide for future generations.

3.88 NSW Labor supports continued research and development to identify economic opportunities for NSW in a carbon constrained world ~~into alternative and more economical uses of coal.~~

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

3.90 NSW Labor will:

- Take a long-term approach to supporting those most affected communities in the Hunter Valley, Central Coast, Lithgow, Mudgee and Wollongong regions;

- Require power station operators and mine owners and operators to identify expected closure dates at least three (3) years prior to the closure to ensure
  - (a) The State Government can consider the adequacy of the remaining power supply;
  - (b) An orderly transfer of employees over this extended period; and
  - (c) Training packages can be rolled out.
- Help meet the future employment needs of these workers by working with Unions and employers to identify like for like job opportunities and develop comprehensive training packages that are put in place before the actual closures take place;
- Identify funding for, and facilitate, a pooled redundancy scheme for the Energy and Mining workforce which:
  - (a) Offers voluntary redundancies (paid at the rate of four weeks' pay for each year of service) at all remaining power stations and mines until the surplus labour generated by these closures is fully redeployed;
  - (b) Sees operators employing only from the pool of Mining and Energy employees affected by redundancies until that pool is exhausted; and
  - (c) Is managed by a tripartite authority (Government, Employers and Unions) that includes a mechanism to resolve disputes;
- Invest in community infrastructure and take a proactive approach to attracting new employers and industries to these regions; and
- Secure a comparable commitment from the Federal Government

### **Public Utilities**

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

## **6. A HEALTHY SOCIETY**

### **Promoting a Healthy Society**

6.27 NSW Labor will continue to take steps to improve environmental health and amenity in NSW by seeking to reduce and minimise all forms of environmental pollution and carbon emissions.

6.32 NSW Labor recognises that planning for the effects of climate change must be part of all future health services deliberations and this planning should include changes in disease patterns and preparation for environmental refugees from our region.

6.46 NSW Labor recognises that the built urban environment has a significant influence on health, particularly chronic diseases such as obesity, type 2 diabetes and heart disease, and that mental health of population is impacted by the environment.

NSW Labor will invest in health enhancing urban design.

## **7. INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND RECONCILIATION**

### **Protecting Indigenous Heritage**

7.32 NSW Labor recognises that land and water in NSW were traditionally owned and occupied by Aboriginal people and are of spiritual, social, cultural and economic importance to Aboriginal people. Following consultation with Aboriginal people NSW Labor will introduce reforms to ensure the land rights system is relevant and workable.

7.33 NSW Labor will ensure that the interests of Aboriginal people are properly represented in government policy and decision making on natural resource issues and is committed to utilising the skills, knowledge and practices of traditional methods of land, sea and water management as practised by Traditional Owners.

7.34 NSW Labor is committed to continuing existing and initiating future management and joint-management agreements of National Parks and State Forests. This is especially appropriate in areas of cultural and historical significance to Aboriginal people.

## **8. COUNTRY LABOR**

### **Protecting Regional Environments**

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

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

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

Land clearing: Labor will prevent 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.

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

- Re-forestation 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.



