



Labor Environment Action Network (NSW Branch)
A NSW Labor Action Committee

1 April 2021

NSW LEAN Submission to 2021 NSW State Labor Conference

Please find below LEAN's submission to 2021 NSW Labor State Conference, containing:

- Motions to state conference.
- Amendments to NSW Labor platform;
 - Chapter 1 amendments – Building Sustainable Communities; and
 - Chapter 3 amendments – Our Economic Future.

Motions to NSW Labor Conference

Kosciuszko National Park Management

Conference notes:

- the Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) and the sensitive alpine ecology found within it is nationally and globally unique on our otherwise flat and dry continent, and the people of NSW are responsible for its preservation for future generations;
- its strong concern at the severe environmental damage caused by feral horses in the park; and
- the impacts of climate change through worsening drought and more frequent bushfires, combined with damage from feral horses is placing a great strain on the environment of KNP, including the concerning news of widespread Snow gum tree dieback.

Conference supports, and calls on the NSW state government to; immediately repeal the Kosciuszko Wild Horses Heritage Act 2018; introduce a new feral horse management plan to significantly and urgently reduce horse numbers in the park; and increase funding to restore and regenerate the KNP, including research into the snow gum dieback.

Amendments to NSW Labor Platform.

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES CHAPTER

Fossil fuel subsidies

1.33. Amend 1.33 to read:

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 or subsidy on

extraction or exploration of new fossil fuel projects, or associated infrastructure. This is because fossil fuels are a mature technology so do not require subsidy and are a major source of greenhouse emissions.

Clean air

1.36. Amend 1.36 to read:

Labor recognises that clean air is critical for human wellbeing, and the economic prosperity of our community. Labor will:

- Ensure that air quality standards comply with the world's best practice.
- Implement a long-term air quality strategy through integrated transport planning, better public transport, industry controls, vehicle improvements, community education and regulation.
- Advocate tougher national emissions standards for motor vehicles, marine vessels and outdoor power equipment.

Source: Adapted from VIC State Labor Platform (par 7.3)

Mining impacts

1.47. Amend 1.47 to read:

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 environment including, water, air quality, biodiversity loss and the greenhouse gas emissions of projects.

Protecting drinking water catchments

1.54. Under 1.54, add an additional point:

- Prohibition of mining under or within drinking water catchments.

Urban rivers

1.55. Under 1.61, Labor will, add the additional points:

- Take a lead role with local government and catchment authorities on litter reduction and water quality strategies for urban rivers.
- Introduce strong water sensitive urban design and sediment management standards in planning instruments for development in urban catchments, to reduce flooding and improve water quality.
- Invest in the replacement of ageing water and sewerage infrastructure which undermines local water quality.
- When possible, acquire land along urban rivers and tributaries for public access and to provide adequate setbacks for revegetation of riparian zones.

Vegetation cover

1.60. Under 1.60, Labor will, add an additional point:

- Ensure we achieve a net increase in vegetation cover to address biodiversity loss and act as a carbon sink and ensure a best practice vegetation mapping program to support this aim.

Source: Adapted from Draft ALP National Platform (Ch 3, par 56)

A circular economy

1.61. Amend the first paragraph of 1.61 to read:

NSW Labor will lead the shift to a circular economy that reduces waste and pollution whilst creating new job opportunities. Labor supports the long-term goal of zero waste to landfill or incineration, and a clear and consistent regulatory and policy framework to achieve that goal. This framework will use a mix of legislative, policy, educative and economic tools to drive waste avoidance and resource recovery.

Source: Adapted from Draft ALP National Platform (Ch 3, par 66) and current NSW Platform to include mention of a circular economy and long-term goal.

Single-use plastics

1.61. Under 1.61, Labor will:

Amend:

- Legislate to ban single use lightweight plastic shopping bags

To read:

- Legislate to ban all single-use plastics, with reasonable exemptions for medical and disability purposes.

Source: WA, QLD, VIC, ACT Labor policy.

Food and Garden Organics recycling

1.61. Under 1.61, Labor will, add an additional point:

- Labor will work with Local Government to make kerbside Food and Garden Organics (FO/FOGO) recycling available to all household dwellings across NSW, recognising the significant greenhouse gas emissions this waste stream causes.

Source: WA, ACT Labor policy.

Recycling infrastructure

1.61. Under 1.16, Labor will, add an additional point:

- Reinvest the waste levy funds into funding for councils to develop regional recycling plans, and the delivery of priority infrastructure to recycle materials locally, particularly where market failures exist.

Source: Local Government NSW Save Our Recycling Campaign.

Biodiversity and pandemics

Add new paragraph after 1.69:

1.xx - Noting the scientific evidence of the link between biodiversity mismanagement and pandemics, NSW Labor will support international biodiversity and habitat conservation, and offer the knowledge and expertise arising from our state's long conservation history where it can be of assistance.

Source: Adapted from Draft ALP National Platform (Ch 3, par 47).

Household energy

1.64. Under 1.64, Labor will, add an additional point:

- Support the electrification of household dwellings, particularly with targeted support programs for social housing and low-income households.

Promoting sustainable transport

1.84. Amend to read:

NSW Labor will promote decarbonization of all forms of transport, recognizing both the human health benefits of cleaner air in urban areas, and the environmental benefits of reduced emissions. NSW Labor recognizes that public transport continues to offer the greatest energy efficiency.

Labor will:

- Investigate and implement appropriate programmes to encourage the uptake of zero emission vehicles and vessels across all modes and categories of transport.
- Support the creation of an electric vehicle charging infrastructure network across the state.
- Support the transition of the government and contracted bus fleets to zero-emission electric or hydrogen vehicles.
- Support zero emission vehicles becoming the standard for the State Government vehicle and vessel fleet.
- Preference local procurement to maximise job creation opportunities.

OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE CHAPTER

Global energy superpower

Add new paragraph after 3.101:

3.xxx NSW Labor will provide leadership to make NSW a global energy superpower, to tackle the challenge of climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce the cost of energy and create decent, secure jobs. This will enable NSW to maximise economic opportunities in high-energy use industries including the production of hydrogen, ammonia, steel, aluminium and other metals.

Source: Adapted from Draft ALP National Platform (Ch 1, par 19).

Sustainable industry opportunities

Add new paragraph after 3.101 and above insertion:

3.xxx NSW Labor will support the commercial development of sustainable industries that can create decent jobs, provide positive environmental benefits, and present opportunities for high-technology exports, including the electrification of transport and industry, recycling and sustainable materials manufacturing, and land restoration and carbon offsets.

Utilising our natural resources

3.110. Amend 3.110 (duplicate also at 3.100) to read:

NSW Labor supports continued research and development into renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Contact

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