

NSW LEAN Submissions to NSW State Labor Conference 2022

PLATFORM AMENDMENTS

Hunter Valley Authority

Amend 1.54, NSW Labor supports to:

- Establishing regional statutory authorities, firstly in the Hunter region, charged with mitigating the adverse impacts of coal closures on workers and regional communities.
- The authorities should have the power to coordinate and deliver worker and community support programs, regional economic development programs, site rehabilitation for employment and conservation purposes, and implement job transfer schemes for workers in power stations and mines to allow voluntary redundancy and redeployment across sites.
- The authority's governance structure shall include major stakeholders including unions, industry and community groups, and work cooperatively with federal and local government bodies. Over time, Labor will consider the case for the ambit of the authority to be extended to other industries undergoing major restructuring as they arise.

Household Energy Efficiency and Electrification

Amend 1.64 to read:

Labor is committed to improving household energy efficiency, and ensuring the benefits of electrification are widely realised, and support policies to ensure that low-income households, renters, and those in social housing are not left behind.

Labor will:

- Coordinate a plan with industry and unions to deliver energy efficiency improvements at scale whilst ensuring safety and quality jobs for licenced workers and apprentices
- Consider a target, and support programs, for improving the energy efficiency standards of existing homes, including electrification.
- Implement minimum energy efficiency standards for rental properties and mandatory disclosure of efficiency performance at point-of-sale and rental.
- Comprehensively upgrade the energy efficiency of the social housing stock, including the electrification of all dwellings.
- Phase out gas connections to all new housing developments by 2025.
- Support lifting the National Construction Code energy efficiency standards for new homes over time, beginning with a rise from 6 to 7 stars.

Public Subsidy for Associated Infrastructure

Amend the dot point under 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 on extraction

of new fossil fuels, 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

Net Zero Public Sector

Amend the second dot point under 1.53 to read:

NSW Labor will demonstrate leadership by reducing the NSW Government's own emissions to net zero by 2030.

Protected Areas

Amend 1.59 to read:

NSW Labor recognises the need to protect 30% of Australia's land, rivers, and oceans by 2030. Labor is committed to securing and conserving representative and viable samples of all bioregions of the state in the national parks estate and, working with the federal government to achieve this target. 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 will update and progress the NSW National Parks Establishment Plan of the previous Labor government. Our first priority is the creation of the Great Koala National Park. Other priorities include improving the links between the various parts of the Paroo-Darling National Park.

Forestry

Add to 1.65:

In government Labor will, support a process that involves the participation of relevant stakeholders including land owners, native title entities, Local Government, environment groups and unions to reach agreement about the management of forests at a regional landscape level, with a focus on transitioning to an environmentally and economically sustainable approach to meeting our timber demands from plantations.

Waste - 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.

Waste - Plastics

Under 1.61, Labor will:

Amend:

- Legislate to ban single use lightweight plastic shopping bags

To read:

- Legislate to ban all single-use plastics.

Waste - Coal Fly Ash

Add a new dot point under 1.61, Labor will:

- Labor supports the development of sustainable recycling industries for coal ash, which represents over 18% of all waste produced in Australia.

Mining under drinking water.

Under 1.54, add an additional point:

- Phase-out of mining under or within drinking water catchments.

MOTIONS

Support for a Hunter Valley Authority.

The transformation underway in NSW's energy industry is causing substantial industry restructuring that is impacting many workers and their communities. Labor must recognise the need to implement a new model of industry restructuring that is people-focused, committed to workers having a seat at the table and can deliver positive social, environmental, and economic outcomes.

Conference supports the work of local unions and community groups such as the Hunter Jobs Alliance, and ensure local voices have a seat at the table regarding their futures.

Conference calls on NSW Labor to, as a priority in government, establish regional statutory authorities, firstly in the Hunter region, charged with mitigating the adverse impacts of coal closures on workers and regional communities.

These authorities should have the power to coordinate and deliver worker and community support programs and regional economic development programs.

Support for a Publicly Owned Renewables

The energy crisis that has afflicted Australia is another consequence of the failed experiment in electricity privatisation. Its promoters sold us a story of more competition, investment, and affordability, but the result has proven to be the opposite. Before privatisation, our electricity system was built with public money, and operated for the public good.

The transition to renewables offers an opportunity to use public investment to return some of these benefits to the people of NSW.

Conference calls on NSW Labor to reaffirm its current commitment in the platform ('Developing Sustainable Energy', 1.86) to publicly invest in large-scale renewable energy by creating a state-owned corporation that will put the public interests first in transition.

Public Ownership will ensure we secure public returns instead of underwriting private company speculation, maximise secure, union job opportunities, and support genuine regional development plans that maintain strong social licences.

Reaffirm Labor's opposition to Nuclear Energy

Conference recognises that nuclear causes more issues than it could possibly solve, and reaffirms its opposition to the extraction of uranium, and nuclear power in NSW. A NSW Labor government must maintain the ban on uranium exploration, extraction, and export, and ensure no nuclear power plants are built in NSW. Nuclear power is an expensive distraction from the real solution of cheap renewable energy: a clean-energy manufacturing boom is not possible with expensive nuclear energy.

Realising the benefits of energy efficiency & electrification

The electrification of household appliances offers significant savings and efficiencies to households as the price of gas rises, and the efficiency of electric alternatives continues to increase.

NSW Labor must ensure that the benefits of electrification are widely realised, and support policies to ensure that low-income households, renters, and those in social housing are not left behind.

Conference calls on NSW Labor to support a comprehensive package of household electrification and energy efficiency improvements that will reduce energy poverty, slash emissions, stimulate employment and apprenticeship opportunities, and improve domestic energy security.

NSW Labor should:

- Coordinate a plan with industry and unions to deliver energy efficiency improvements at scale whilst ensuring safety and quality jobs for licenced workers and apprentices
- Consider a target, and support programs, for improving the energy efficiency standards of existing homes, including electrification.
- Implement minimum energy efficiency standards for rental properties and mandatory disclosure of efficiency performance at point-of-sale and rental.
- Comprehensively upgrade the energy efficiency of the social housing stock, including the electrification of all dwellings.
- Phase out gas connections to all new housing developments by 2025.
- Support lifting the National Construction Code energy efficiency standards for new homes over time, beginning with a rise from 6 to 7 stars.

National Electricity Objective

Conference calls on NSW Labor to urge Federal Energy Minister to reform the National Electricity Objective:

The NEO needs to be reformed to balance three key objectives.

- Consumer costs
- Emissions reductions and climate resilience, and
- Broad economic benefit

Renewable Energy Sector Board (RESB)

Conference calls on NSW Labor to support the retention of the RESB framework but believes there are significant opportunities to improve the framework. Namely:

- Committing to establish transition planning authorities that work with Federal and Local Governments with a priority for establishing one in the Hunter Valley
- The need to improve monitoring, compliance and enforcement frameworks in the delivery of the RESB Plan to ensure it delivers jobs and local manufacturing etc
- Increased public ownership and control including by partnering with the Commonwealth with the Rewiring the Nation policy

Electric Vehicles and Industry Policy

The transition away from internal combustion engines will mean thousands of new buses on NSW roads in the next decade. Labor will develop industry policy to maximise the local manufacturing of these new vehicles to create local manufacturing jobs. This should include the creation of publicly owned common user facilities for the manufacture of electric buses.

For questions regarding LEANs submissions, please contact Jaden Harris, NSW LEAN Convenor: jaden@lean.net.au.