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3 March 2023

Jacqui Mumford
Nature Conservation Council
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RE: Nature Conservation Council Policy Asks

Dear Ms Mumford,

Thank you for reaching out to the Greens NSW concerning the Nature Conservation Council's Policy Asks for the 2023 NSW State Election.

Warm regards,
Sue Higginson,
Greens MP and environment spokesperson



Climate and Energy

Policy detail	Response
<p>1) Set science-based greenhouse emissions targets</p> <p>a. Ensure greenhouse emissions targets and progress toward the targets are assessed through an independent review process that has regard to Paris Agreement aligned emissions reduction scenarios.</p>	<p>Yes, the Greens support the scientific consensus on the need to rapidly reduce missions with the target of keeping warming within 1.5 to 2 degrees celsius.</p> <p>The Greens support the assessment of targets through an independent review process with regard to Paris Agreement aligned emissions reduction scenarios.</p>
<p>2) Continue and accelerate the transition to 100% clean energy by 2030.</p>	<p>Yes, the Greens have a plan for new coal or gas projects and phasing coal and gas out entirely by 2030.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase out coal and gas by 2030 • Transition NSW to 100% renewable energy • Make fossil fuel companies pay their fair share of tax • Prepare communities to better withstand the climate crisis. • Provide a just transition for workers <p>Read our plan here.</p>
<p>3) Address the cost-of-living crisis by implementing household energy efficiency package, including minimum efficiency standards for rental properties, solar on community and public housing, and additional</p>	<p>Yes, the Greens plan to make housing affordable includes introducing better minimum standards in rental accommodation including making it mould and damp-free, with ceiling insulation, heating, roof venting</p>

rebates to help more households to get off gas and improve the efficiency of their home and appliances.	and waterproofing with compulsory energy efficiency standards, and internet access.
4) Develop a gas decarbonisation roadmap	<p>Yes, the Greens have committed to ending coal and gas by 2030, and an immediate ban on new coal and gas projects. Ending coal and gas will require a careful and managed, government led transition, and the greens are committed to ensuring clear timeframes are put in place with economic support and assistance to achieve that aim. This would include clear guidance, with timeframes and milestones, from the government to manage that process.</p> <p>The Greens have committed to electrifying households, with a plan to get one million NSW homes off gas over the next 6 years. Development of a roadmap will enable us to implement a similarly comprehensive plan for councils and industry, to facilitate a rapid but orderly pathway off fossil gas.</p>
5) Implement an offshore wind strategy for NSW	<p>Yes, the Greens support this proposal. The Greens have long advocated for an acceleration of investment in offshore wind projects, particularly in the Hunter and Illawarra. The Greens were instrumental in including offshore wind capabilities in Renewable Energy Zones. The Greens embrace the potential of 40,000GW of wind potential in Australian waters, and will continue to push</p>

	for increased investment and minimum targets to bring offshore wind projects online in NSW.
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Koalas

Policy detail	Response
<p>1) Protect koala habitat by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Transferring core koala habitat to national parks, including the Great Koala National Park proposal (175,000 ha), the Sandy Creek Koala Park proposal (6988 ha), and the Georges River Koala Park proposal (4000 ha) b. Protecting the Sydney Koala Greenbelt c. Imposing stricter controls on land clearing including for urban development, throughout the Sydney Basin Bioregion d. Complete mapping of koala habitat by the end of 2023 e. Mandate the making of Koala Plans of Management to be gazetted by 2024 	<p>Yes the Greens support the NCC's policy asks on koalas.</p> <p>The Greens NSW also propose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a Moratorium on the Clearing of Koala Habitat • Introduce a Koala Protection Bill with clear powers that prohibit the destruction of Koala Habitat • Create a 'Koala Super-Highway' to connect Koala Habitat by mapping, protecting and expanding existing koala corridors. • Ending Native Forest Logging • Empowering Local Councils to Protect Koala Habitat • Create a \$1 billion fund to purchase at-risk koala habitat and corridors. • Enable councils to refuse development applications that threaten koala habitat identified in a CKPOM.

	You can read the Greens full koala plan here.
2) Maintain, expand and restore linking corridors by mandating minimum 250m wide with average of 425m wide corridors through strategic and local plans and planning policies generally.	Yes, the Greens support this.
3) Remove development loopholes (ie. discretions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Gazette an environmental veto (koala gateway) for koala habitat on all development applications, including state significant development by bolstering safeguards in assessment and determination processes. b. Address ongoing concerns with the operation and implementation of the Koala SEPP. c. Strengthening the 'serious and irreversible impacts' mechanism. 	<p>Yes the greens support these asks.</p> <p>The Greens will also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a Moratorium on the Clearing of Koala Habitat • Introduce a Koala Protection Bill with clear powers that prohibit the destruction of Koala

3. Habitat protection and biodiversity

Policy detail	Response
1) End native forest logging and transition NSW timber supply to 100% sustainable plantations a. Assess, value and maximise the role our public native forests play in reducing emissions and storing carbon dioxide.	<p>Yes, The Greens have announced our policy to end native forest logging with a funded transition for industry and workers.</p> <p>The Greens recognise that native forest logging emits carbon and reduces the capacity for forests to store carbon.</p>
2) Reduce rates of land clearing to below pre-2016 levels	<p>Yes, The Greens support reducing rates of land clearing to below pre-2016 levels and also support incentives for landholders to revegetate the landscape with native species.</p>
3) Reform the Biodiversity Offsetting Scheme a. Prevent the use of offsets for development in the habitat of endangered and critically endangered species b. Ensure any future offsets scheme is based on best-practice principles c. Strictly limit offsetting to losses accrued as a result of genuinely essential and unavoidable development impact	<p>Yes, The Greens support this.</p> <p>It is not possible to offset endangered and critically endangered species. All offsets must be like-for-like and the current practice of offsetting with inappropriate and unmanaged land must end.</p>

4) Rule out raising the Warragamba dam wall, which would drown 4700 hectares of World Heritage-listed national parks.	The Greens oppose the raising of Warragamba Dam Wall.
5) Achieve the 30-by-30 target by adding 14 million hectares of protected areas by 2030	<p>The Greens have announced our policy to protect a minimum of 30% of land and water by 2030.</p> <p>We are also calling for increased funding for fire and invasive species management across the protected area network and an end to over-development and infrastructure within the network.</p>

5. Waste and recycling (with Boomerang Alliance)

Policy detail	Response
<p>1) Ban more single-use plastics.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Urgently review the Plastic Action Plan in 2023 and announce a new strategy, consistent with other advanced jurisdictions and targeting new single use items and including problem plastics in other key polluting sectors Incorporate reusable products and practices into the solutions agenda. Ban single-use foodware for dine-in at all food outlets 	<p>Yes the Greens support these policy asks.</p> <p>The Greens NSW support the phase out of heavyweight plastic bags and coffee cups as well as a number of other items not addressed by the NSW Government's Plastic Action Plan including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balloons containing plastic Plastic ring carriers for beverages Plastic confection sticks Reusable plastic bags Plastic takeaway sauce containers

<p>d. Ban heavier plastic bags and adopt a reusables standard as proposed by the Boomerang Alliance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic fruit and vegetable packaging • Plastic newspaper and magazine packaging • Plastic single-use table cloths • Plastic cups • Oxo-degradable plastic items • expanded polystyrene packaging • Non-compostable cigarettes • Expanded polystyrene construction blocks, known as waffle pods • Plastic takeaway food containers • Non-recyclable and non-compostable beverage containers
<p>2) Regulate packaging</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the Packaging Targets will be met and reject attempts by the packaging industry to use the voluntary approach. NSW should introduce its own mandatory product stewardship regulations if national arrangements are not forthcoming in 2023. Strengthen the Waste Strategy to mandate recycled content in products purchased by government and for producers generally. Continue the Recycling Modernisation Fund 	<p>Yes the Greens support these policy asks.</p> <p>The Greens have also released a plan to solve the soft plastics crisis that would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately redirect the entirety of the more than \$800 million per annum waste levy towards dealing with the waste crisis • Dedicate \$100 million from the Waste Levy towards establishing soft plastics recycling schemes. • Immediately establish a 'Plastics Crisis Taskforce' to develop a soft plastics recycling strategy • Mandate procurement targets for recycled plastic content in single use plastics as well as products

	<p>like roads and pathways, railway bollards and street furniture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the trial of curbside soft plastics recycling to Sydney. • Support and invest in small businesses with existing soft plastics recycling schemes to scale up.
<p>3) Support plastic free programs and microplastic reduction strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide financial support for Plastic Free Places and AUSMAP b. Adopt microplastic reduction strategies 	<p>Yes the Greens support these policy asks.</p>

5. Planning and urban green space

Policy detail	Response
<p>1) Implement the draft Design and Place SEPP, to put net zero strategies at the heart of urban planning, including EV ready apartments; deep soil to retain and plant trees; urban heat mitigation</p>	<p>Yes the greens support this ask.</p>

<p>2) Reinstate the neutral or beneficial effect test on water quality (NorBE) on all developments in the Sydney drinking water catchment, including extensions and expansions.</p>	<p>Yes the greens support this ask.</p>
<p>3) Create the Sydney Blue-Green Grid identified by the Government Architect, including all remnant bushland of endangered and critically endangered ecological communities.</p>	<p>Yes the greens support this ask.</p>
<p>4) Maintain the mature tree canopy on public and private land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Catalogue parklands and significant trees/canopy in the Sydney metro area b. Make information available digitally, live, and publicly. The quality of open spaces and significant trees/canopy should be measured via connectivity, tree type, understory and grass cover and species to create a dashboard to assess the importance and ongoing management of the open space and canopy. 	<p>Yes the greens support these asks.</p> <p>You can read our full list of planning policies here.</p>
<p>5) Prohibit the sale of parkland and ensure protection from adjoining developments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establish an Open Space Defenders Office that is independent of government and can challenge rezonings, impacts and sales that are not in the public or environmental interest. 	<p>Yes the greens support these asks.</p>

6. Rivers and wetlands^[BS1] ^[2] ^[3]

Policy detail	Response
1) Commit to achieving the water recovery targets in the Murray-Darling Basin Plan by the legislated deadline of July 2024.	Yes the Greens support this ask.
2) Fix the cap on the “drought of record” so that all drought data to the present day is considered in determining water allocations from public dams, including modelled future climate impacts on water availability.	<p>Yes the Greens support this ask.</p> <p>The Greens have a plan to protect our ocean and marine life. We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish a Sydney Marine Park• Strengthen our network of marine parks and sanctuaries• Introduce a river-to-sea habitat restoration program• Recognise cultural fishing rights• Remove shark nets and invest in a non-lethal shark management program and education• Support sustainable seafood and fisheries in NSW• Ban offshore exploration and mining of fossil fuels• Build the resilience of our oceans and beaches to climate disruption.

<p>3) Improve First Nations access to water.</p>	<p>Yes the Greens support this policy ask.</p> <p>As a part of our proposed Treat process the Greens will work towards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amending the Water Management Act 2000 to prioritise Aboriginal cultural heritage and improving Aboriginal social, cultural and economic outcomes. • Reviewing and rewriting Water Sharing Plans to improve cultural flows and First Nations access to water. • Providing water entitlements to traditional owners giving them agency to manage country. • Working with Traditional Owners to create culturally appropriate consultation processes that empower First Nations peoples and genuinely influence the outcome of decisions. • Directing the water department to develop genuine partnerships with First Nations peoples to self-determine water management.
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7. Oceans

Policy detail	Response
<p>1) Meet the 30-by-30 target of marine waters in sanctuary zones on a bioregional basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Create marine parks, including sanctuary zones, for the Sydney and Eden bioregions.b. Return management of marine parks to the department of environment.c. Reinstate the sanctuary zones that have been cut since 2013.	<p>Yes the Greens support this policy ask.</p> <p>The Greens will act in the next term of Parliament to establish the Sydney Marine Park.</p>