



Nature  
Conservation  
Council

NCC Regional Conference 2025 • Central–West NSW

# LIFEBLOOD: CONNECTIONS OF RIVERS, COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY

14<sup>TH</sup>-15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, BLAYNEY SHIRE COMMUNITY CENTRE



## Post-Conference Info Pack 2025 NCC Regional Conference

Blayney | 14–15 June 2025

Thank you for joining us for the 2025 Regional Conference in Blayney. It was a joy to spend the weekend with over 100 passionate people from across the Central West and beyond – connecting, learning and organising together.

### This info pack includes:

- Conference highlights: page 2
- Theme and reflections: page 2
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## Conference Highlights

- **Over 100 attendees** from the Central West and across NSW
- **30+ groups** represented at the conference
- **20+ speakers, facilitators and contributors** across the weekend
- A rich blend of **skill-building, storytelling and strategy**
- Preview of the new short film ***Voices from the Valley***
- Launch of the **Nature and Renewable Energy for Central-West Orana Strategy Working Group**

## Theme and Reflections

The conference program centred on Country – rivers, land and sky – as the ‘lifeblood’ of communities. A clear theme emerged around the impacts of mining, including gold, silver, lead and ‘critical minerals’ extraction.

It was powerful to hear firsthand from local groups, alongside policy and research experts. We explored citizen science, unlikely alliances, and community power in action. We also heard about biodiversity loss in the Central West, craftivism techniques from the Knitting Nannas and River Yarners, and upcoming developments in the Renewable Energy Zone.

👉 [Review the conference program](#)

👉 [Revisit the field trip notes](#)





## Presentations and Resources

The below link will take you to slides and resources from the conference sessions. Where permission has been given, we've included the version provided by the speaker. If you're looking for something not listed here, feel free to get in touch.

### 👉 [Aunty Nyree Reynolds](#)

### 👉 [Lightning Talks](#), featuring slides from:

- Gem Green, Cadia Community Sustainability Network
- Janet Walk, Mudgee Region Action Group
- Bev Smiles, Inland Rivers Network

### 👉 [Keynote Session](#)

*Lifeblood – Connections of Rivers, Country and Community*, featuring slides from:

- Bev Smiles, Central West Environment Council
- Janet Walk, Mudgee Region Action Group
- Lian Sinclair, Minerals Policy Institute
- Frances Retallack, Cadia Community Sustainability Network

### 👉 [Second Plenary](#)

*Protecting Nature in a Changing Region: Policy, Biodiversity and Community Action*, featuring slides from:

- Dr Louisa Mamouny, Executive Director, POTSE, DCCEEW

👉 [Nature and Renewables Workshop](#) – Eve Altman, NCC

👉 [Crafting Resistance Workshop](#) – Tracey Carpenter, Knitting Nannas and Margaret Sewell and Bernadette Mullaney, Knitting Nannas and River Yarners

👉 [Slow the Flow Workshop](#) – Therese Welsh and Annabel Dunn, Eugowra Catchment Landcare

👉 [Building Local Climate Action Workshop](#) Amanada Perrin, Bathurst Parents for Climate and Jack Fry, Bathurst Community Climate Action Network

👉 [Murray Darling Basin Workshop](#) – Mel Gray, NCC

## Staying in Touch

**Got feedback? Want to get more involved?**

Reach out any time:

**Alana Sinclair** – [alana@nature.org.au](mailto:alana@nature.org.au)

Let's keep the momentum going!

