

# THE ENVIRONMENT

The Greens stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of NSW to protect our precious marine parks, national parks, native vegetation and biodiversity. We have introduced disallowances against bad regulations, made detailed submissions to improve government policy and highlighted environmental damage.

## PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT



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NSW's environment is under threat from the most anti-environment government the State has seen.

The Liberal/National Government, with the Shooters and Fishers Party, have spent the last four years attacking our environment. One of their first acts in Government was to abolish the environment department, cutting hundreds of jobs. Since then they have introduced recreational hunting and grazing in National Parks and proposed a logging program in the State's conservation areas, weakened native vegetation protections and cut funding to the Environmental Defenders Office. They've placed a moratorium on declaring new National Parks and have revoked a quarter of the States' no-take sanctuary zones.

2014 was NSW's hottest year on record, yet there is no appropriate response from the NSW Liberal-National Government; they approved the further extraction of fossil fuels and classified wind farms in NSW as 'polluters'.

Labor has failed to stand up to the Liberal-National Government's attacks on the environment. They voted for the destructive 10/50 tree clearing laws which have stripped our suburbs of vegetation and biodiversity. Federal Labor, together with the Liberal-National government under Barry O'Farrell, approved the Maules Creek coal mine, which will produce massive amounts of climate destroying carbon emissions.

This State election is critical for the environment.

Decisions made over the next four years will determine the fate of vast tracts of NSW's most beautiful forests and agricultural land. Will it be open cut coal mines and CSG wells or a rich and resilient landscape that supports both community and habitat? Our natural environment is under unprecedented stress from climate change, land clearing, habitat loss, pollution, resource extraction and inappropriate development.

There are close to 1,000 animal and plant species at risk of extinction, 61% of the original native vegetation in NSW has been cleared, thinned or significantly disturbed. The Liberal-National government solution has been to remove the protection of some of our most precious marine and national parks.

Only urgent, focused action will save what is left.

**Only The Greens can be trusted to stand up for the environment. We will:**

- **Ensure that government decisions and legislation are underpinned by Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) principles.**
- **Restore genuine public participation in environmental decision-making.**
- **Protect and expand the State's National Park and Wilderness Reserve system.**
- **Protect the marine environment in a system of comprehensive, adequate and representative Marine Protected Areas.**
- **Prohibit inappropriate development, mining, logging and grazing in National Parks.**
- **Ensure any Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is prepared independently of the proponent.**
- **Strengthen legislation to protect biodiversity and native vegetation.**
- **Defend urban bushland.**
- **Reduce air pollution through strengthening regulation and targets.**
- **Ensure a well-resourced, strong and independent Environmental Protection Agency.**