Report Card: Environmental performance of the NSW Government March 2015 to March 2017



## **POLLUTION AND WASTE**

- Committed to a Container Deposit Scheme
- Provided more money for the Waste Less, Recycle More program
- Expanded recycling infrastructure
- Taking action to boost the uptake of low-emission and electric vehicles





### **CLIMATE AND ENERGY**

- Announced target of net zero emissions by 2050, but failed to set interim targets for carbon reduction
- Invested in energy efficiency programs
- Lags as one of the worst states for renewable energy generation (7% from wind and solar)





- More money for compliance, increased penalties for breaches, strengthened offence of providing false and misleading information
- Failed to improve strategic planning, restore merit appeal rights or require approvals from specialist departments for major projects
- Planned to substantially weaken already poor biodiversity offsetting systems

MIXED



## **NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDERNESS**

- Made no significant additions to the national parks estate
- Allowed inappropriate activities in national parks and wilderness areas, including horse riding and expansion of resorts
- Reduced funding and capacity of the National Parks and Wildlife Service

BAD



## FORESTS, WOODLANDS, GRASSLANDS AND WILDLIFE

- Gutted land-clearing and biodiversity laws
- Made significant changes to Crown lands without assessing the environmental impacts
- Allowed native forests to be burned for electricity
- Subsidised native forest logging and failed to review and strengthen environmental regulations for native forestry

## MARINE CONSERVATION

- Has not committed to establishing a Sydney Marine Park
- Did not restore full protections to the state's 20 marine sanctuaries
- Expanded use of shark nets that kill marine life



- Failed to increase protections for farmland, wild places, water resources, and communities
- Tinkered with assessment processes, but not enough to strengthen environment and community protections
- Proposed changes to pollution guidelines do not go far enough in protecting the environment or communities

# RIVERS AND WETLANDS

- Undermined elements of Murray-Darling Basin Plan designed to restore rivers and wetlands
- Failed to meet state obligations that support internationally significant wetlands and migratory bird habitat
- Allowed coal seam gas activity to threaten inland and coastal groundwater
- Allowed longwall mining in catchment area, including Sydney's drinking water catchment



BAD

**BAD** 

BAD

**BAD** 

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

Before the 2015 NSW Government elections, environment groups compiled a report listing the top 25 actions required to conserve nature and protect the environment during the 2015-2019 term of government. The report Our Environment, Our Future - Policies for the 2015 NSW Election and Beyond urged all parties and candidates to incorporate those actions in their environmental policy platforms. This Report Card assesses the performance of the Coalition government halfway through its term against those 25 key indicators.

## **FULL REPORT**

Our Environment, Our Future, this report card and the full analysis are available at: www.nature.org.au/reportcard.



## **ABOUT US:**

Founded in 1955, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW is the peak environment organisation for NSW, representing more than 150 community environment groups across the state. www.nature.org.au



The National Parks Association of NSW is a not-for-profit conservation charity formed in 1957, seeking to protect, connect and restore the integrity and diversity of natural systems in NSW. www.npansw.org.au



The Total Environment Centre was established in 1972 as an action and information centre. It has run more than 100 successful campaigns, protecting the environment and improving urban sustainability. www.tec.org.au



The Blue Mountains Conservation Society is a voluntary organisation working to conserve the environment of the Blue Mountains since 1961. The Society runs conservation programs, a nursery, a bushcare group and a bushwalk program. www.bluemountains.org.au



The Colong Foundation works to ensure all wilderness and large natural areas in Australia are protected, well managed and held in high public regard. The Foundation's campaigns have secured more than a million hectares of national parks, most of which is wilderness. www.colongwilderness.org.au



Formed in 1976, the North Coast Environment Council is the peak umbrella environment group in northern NSW for over 40 member groups, campaigning to protect natural areas, for social justice and ecological sustainability. ncec.wordpress.com



Central West Environment Council is an umbrella organisation for environment groups, field naturalist societies and individuals with an interest in conserving the natural environment in central west NSW. www.cwecouncil.com



South East Region Conservation Alliance is an umbrella organisation for conservation, environment and for citizens' groups who want to conserve and protect the natural environment of south-east NSW, Australia. www.serca.org.au