



## NSW ELECTIONS 2007 POLICY ENVIRONMENT

**The current drought, the unavoidable reality of global warming and decades of bad management now threaten the entire planet with environmental catastrophe.**

The Socialist Alliance believes that *the only way to avoid this disaster is to implement an emergency program to achieve sustainability in energy, water, biodiversity and land management, and to drastically reduce pollution and greenhouse emissions.*

In New South Wales the Socialist Alliance would work towards establishing this program in consultation with local and Indigenous communities, and foster training and employment to maintain the program and establish a strong

environmental sector, while making corporations pay for their polluting ways.

This emergency program would include the following

### **Water—an integrated, efficient plan**

- **Full public ownership of water and sewerage infrastructure.** Reduce wastage by immediately **repairing decaying infrastructure** and mandating **water efficiency standards.**
- **Stricter controls on industrial usage and pollution,** increase prices and fines for companies and mandate the use of recycled and reused water for all industrial purposes.
- **Reduce pressure on catchments** by providing residential **rainwater tanks,** a program for **storm-water harvesting,** and **phasing out water-transfers** from other catchments.
- **No ‘white-elephant’ desalination plants,** which are too expensive and energy-inefficient.
- Provide localised **residential grey-water treatment systems and increased water efficiency,** using grey-water for local parks and trees. Establish integrated **water-recycling systems** and **phase out deep-sea outfalls,** which pump out **over 450 billion litres** of water every year.
- **Replace wasteful flood irrigation** with pipes. Encourage **sustainable agricultural** crops and practices suited to local rainfall and climates. Agriculture uses 70% of water consumed in NSW.
- **Full community participation** and consultation in water management, and greater public accountability. Establish an independent commission on the future of the Murray-Darling basin.

### **Energy—renewable not coal or nuclear**

- **No new coal-fired power stations or mines** – there’s no such thing as “clean coal”. **It accounts for 30% of Australia’s greenhouse emissions.** The proposed Anvil Hill mine in the Hunter would generate over 27 million tonnes of carbon dioxide each year alone.
- **Replace coal-power with a renewable energy infrastructure,** creating new jobs and cutting emissions. Mandate and **subsidise solar power** installations for all domestic dwellings.
- Establish an industry-funded **minimum 50% renewable energy target by 2020,** a target of **90% emissions reductions by 2030** as a benchmark for advanced industrialised countries, and a **15% reduction in demand by 2015** by imposing strict energy efficiency standards.
- **Stop and reverse privatisation** of energy and electricity industries.
- **No new nuclear reactors** at Lucas Heights, or anywhere else. No uranium mines or nuclear waste dumping.

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## Public transport—a free and expanded system

- One reason that **Australia is the world's highest per capita producer of greenhouse gases** is that 80% of us rely on cars for transport. What's more, the costs of car pollution are not only catastrophic for the environment – they also increase health costs. The Socialist Alliance would:
- **Immediately scrap fares and rapidly improve and expand public transport** across Sydney, and **expand services in rural and regional areas**. Expansion of Countrylink throughout NSW.
- **Shift freight from road onto rail**, and make haulage companies pay their way.
- Expand the creation of bicycle routes and pedestrian-only areas.
- **Stop using tax-payers' money to subsidise private toll-ways and tunnels**.
- Establish **limits on greenhouse emissions** and other pollutants **for all new vehicles**. **Abolish the tax subsidies** that encourage production and use of petrol-guzzling vehicles.

## Forests, agriculture and land management

- **Stop logging old growth forests**. End clear-felling and woodchip exports from native forests.
- **Publicly owned timber industry** based on sustainable plantations. **Strategic planned hazard reduction** to avoid bushfires, including controlled burn-offs and fire-smart development.
- **No mining or mineral exploration in national parks or areas of high conservation value**.
- **Restore and revegetate dry lands**, degraded and salt-affected regions, and place **strict controls on land clearing**. Stop farming and commercial development in salt-affected and ecologically important regions. **Immediately end broad scale land clearing**.
- **Phase out agribusiness farming** in the Murray-Darling basin. **Reduce reliance on chemical fertilisers and pesticides**. Encourage **urban and suburban sustainable agriculture projects**.
- Mandate sustainable, **ecologically friendly, aquaculture ventures and fishing techniques**.
- **Clean up marine and estuarine pollution**, and protect and rehabilitate wetlands.
- **No Genetically Engineered (GE) crops**. **Mandate labelling of all GE foods** to protect genetic diversity. Strict laws and fines against contamination.
- Support strict programs to **prevent and remove exotic species**. **Stop use of 1080 poisoning**.
- Humane treatment of animals and **full protection of endangered species and habitats**.

## Waste management—preventing pollution

- **Force manufacturers of electronic equipment, white-goods, IT and other products to initiate recycling programs**.
- **Mandate ecologically sustainable development practices and materials**.
- **Establish comprehensive recycling systems for all wastes and reduce landfills**. NSW produces one-third of Australia's waste, yet only about 30% is recycled!
- **Implement an emergency plan to prevent battery waste** and other toxic leachate getting into groundwater and the ecosystem.
- **Encourage greater household waste composting** and use of compost toilets. **Organic waste makes up 40% of landfills**, and produces methane, contributing to global warming.
- Mandated container deposits. **Remediate contaminated industrial sites**.

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