

# THE GREENS NSW 2011 NSW ELECTION CAMPAIGN

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## REAL CHANGE, FOR A CHANGE.

### What does Real Change mean for NSW?

At today's campaign launch, The Greens outlined their vision for real change in NSW, made the case for electing more Greens to the NSW parliament, and announced three new policy initiatives to kick-start The Greens Plan for NSW.

VOTE **1** THE GREENS.

The Greens NSW 2011 Election Launch  
Media Briefing Note

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# THE GREENS PLAN.

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## REAL CHANGE FOR A CHANGE.

The Greens' Plan for real change in NSW offers a solid platform to get NSW back on track and plan for the future. Labor's time is up, while the Coalition is running a small target campaign that is short on detail on key issues such as electricity privatisation and reform of the planning system.

The Greens' Plan will invest in stronger public services and public assets, not sell them off. We will invest in the transition to renewable energy, building a cleaner economy with new green jobs. A priority will be to build more public transport, restore regional rail services and shift freight onto rail.

The Greens will repeal Part 3A planning laws, return planning powers to local communities and establish an Independent Planning Commission for developments with genuine state significance. Cleaning up the culture of NSW politics has been a key achievement of the Greens in the NSW Parliament. We scrutinised Labor government deals by exposing secret documents in the Upper House and helped expose the corrupting influence of corporate donations on NSW politics. We will continue this work and campaign for a ban on all corporate donations in NSW.

Voters looking for vision, values and real change in this election can turn to the Greens.

## THE GREENS PLAN: THREE KEY INITIATIVES.

The Greens today announced three key initiatives to:

- build three base-load solar thermal power plants
- provide two years of free pre-school education, two days per week
- increase access to quality public dental care services.

## LIGHTING UP NSW: SOLAR THERMAL POWER PLANTS.

NSW can be a leader in reducing the burden on the climate, generating jobs and protecting households from rising coal and electricity prices. To kick-start the transition to renewable energy in NSW the Greens would build three baseload solar thermal power stations with heat storage in the Central West, funded by Green Infrastructure Bonds.

Harnessing the power of the sun to power steam turbines will provide reliable, zero-emissions base-load electricity twenty four hours a day using heat storage technologies. By moving rapidly to the solar thermal future, NSW will not only be able to phase out some of its existing coal-fired power stations and reduce carbon emissions, it will also position NSW as a leader in the global market to supply the zero-emissions technology.

Household power bills will be protected in the future by reducing NSW's exposure to international coal prices which are expected to double in the next decade.

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Construction on the first plant could start by March 2012, with a schedule completion date of March 2015.

Solar thermal power plants are already operating in Spain and California, and projects are in various stages of development in Italy, United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Morocco and Egypt.

Construction of the plants is estimated to create about 4,500 new jobs at peak, with additional jobs if the mirrors and other components are manufactured in Australia.

Operations and maintenance of all three plants would create 1,900 new ongoing green jobs.



The Greens' Solar Thermal Power Plant initiative:

- Immediately commission a six month technology and site study for three 200 MW utility-scale grid connected, base-load solar thermal power stations;
- Pay for the plant using Greens Bonds that raise revenue from the sale of electricity, Renewable Energy Certificates and other Green Energy products;
- Commence construction on the first plant by March 2012, with a scheduled completion date of March 2015; and commence construction of next two plants in March 2013 and March 2014.

Estimated costs of the policy:

On current technology prices, the first plant would cost approximately \$2.1 billion to build, paid for by issuing \$525 million of Green Bonds for each of the four years of construction.

The second and third plants are expected to cost substantially less (\$1.8bn and \$1.06bn) as the technology matures and local experience is accumulated, allowing them to show a greater net economic benefit.

Compared to a coal-fired power station of the same size, a 200 MW solar thermal plant will have a \$180 million a year advantage, including savings on operating costs, the sale of Renewable Energy Certificates and not having to pay a carbon price. This is sufficient revenue to service the interest and repay the capital on the Green Bonds required to finance the plant (at a 7.5% rate of return over 30 years).

Plants to remain fully publicly owned and operated.

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## TWO YEARS FREE PRE-SCHOOL: CATCHING UP TO THE OECD.

The Greens plan will offer two years of free preschool education, for two days per week, for all children in NSW.

Australia is heading towards one year universal access to preschool for all children in the year prior to starting school.

The first stage of the Greens' pre-school initiative would offer 10,000 children the opportunity to enter a government pre-school for an additional one year. These students would then experience two years of preschool for two days per week. These places would be initially targeted to Aboriginal families and disadvantaged communities.

The benefits of two years of pre-school are well established in international studies, including better learning outcomes, better social adjustment to school life, higher long-term education and income levels. These benefits comprehensively outweigh the costs.

More pre-schooling will save money in the long run as costs in the health, criminal justice and school education systems decline. For example, the cost of an additional preschool teacher is less than \$95,000 a year while the state loses \$100,000 per year for every adult in jail.

While the statistics are hard to pin down, less than 14 percent of children under the age of 6 receive two years of pre-school. Most OECD countries offer universal pre-school education for two years.



The Greens' Two Years Free Pre-School policy initiative:

- Stage 1: Offer 10,000 children the opportunity to enter a government preschool for an additional one year. These students would then experience two years of preschool for two days per week. These places would be initially targeted to Aboriginal families and disadvantaged communities.
- Work with the Commonwealth to extend access to two years of preschool for all children by 2018.

Estimated additional costs of the first stage of the policy:

- \$28 million per year for additional teachers,
- \$100 million capital works in the first year to build additional classrooms.

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## DENTAL CARE FOR ALL: A BASIC NEED.

NSW now has the lowest level of per capita spending on oral health.

The Greens plan aims to bring relief to the 132,800 people currently on waiting lists for general dental services in NSW.

Over 50 percent of patients on the public dental health waiting list have been there for more than 6 months, many of them in great pain.

Investing in dental services will reduce costs in the health sector and alleviate the pain suffered by many elderly and disadvantaged people in NSW.



The Greens' 'Dental Care for All' policy initiative:

Implements the recommendations of dentists and dental health advocates in the Oral Health Alliance, including to:

- Increase funding for dental care by \$102.5 million pa to take NSW from the lowest per capita funder of these services to the equal highest with Queensland,
- Commission the development of a dental workforce strategy and invest in the training of new dental health professionals,
- Invest in new public dental clinics including mobile and community-based services,
- Fund targeted initiatives for the Aboriginal community (by boosting the Wicked Smiles program), older people, people with an intellectual disability, refugees and rural and remote communities.

The Greens will also increase funding for preventative dental services to ensure that every young person is seen by a dentist or a dental hygienist within the first three years of schooling.

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## THE GREENS CAMPAIGN AT A GLANCE

### Greens chances

In the Upper House, the Greens are in with a chance of increasing our numbers from 4 to 5 MPs. We are confident of electing Greens MP David Shoebridge and Mayor of Byron Shire Jan Barham, numbers 1 and 2 on the Upper House ticket, and we have been campaigning hard to get Orange City Councillor Jeremy Buckingham, number 3 on the Greens Upper House ticket, over the line.

In the Lower House, Jamie Parker in Balmain and Fiona Byrne in Marrickville are looking to make history in NSW and break through in the Lower House. It will be a tough campaign. Jamie Parker requires a swing against Labor of 3.7% to win the seat from Verity Firth and Fiona Byrne requires a swing against Carmel Tebbutt of 7.5%.

### Role of Greens in the next Parliament

The role of the Greens in the next parliament will be to scrutinise the Coalition government's legislation, and introduce positive and forward thinking ideas for a cleaner, greener NSW. We will put people and the environment ahead of short term policies and vested interests.

The Greens would work responsibly and effectively to hold the Coalition to account. We have worked hard in the NSW Parliament since 1995 to give a strong voice to the community and the environment. The Greens are part of an experienced team in federal, state and local government.

### Conservative threat in NSW Upper House

It is widely accepted that the Coalition will win a majority in the Lower House however the contest in the Upper House remains live. There is a very real chance that the election may result in handing the balance of power to a conservative coalition of the Liberals, the Nationals, the Shooters and Fishers Party, Fred Nile's Christian Democrats and Family First. The Greens are urging people to vote for the Greens in the Upper House to bring balance to the NSW Parliament and ensure a progressive, not a right-wing outcome. More Greens MPs will also stop the Coalition controlling both houses.

### Lower House candidates

The Greens are fielding candidates in all 93 lower house seats across NSW. Their backgrounds are diverse, including unionists, truck drivers, farmers, teachers, carers and small business owners. They range in age from 20 to 86 years of age. The Greens are celebrating the fact that 51%, or 58 out of 114 candidates running in this election are women.

There are four Greens Mayors running as candidates in the election and 15 local Greens local councillors. To see the full list of candidates and their biographies: <http://nsw.greens.org.au/meet-nsw-greens/candidates>

### Upper House candidates

There are 21 people on the Greens Upper House ticket, 12 women and 9 men.

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The top four positions on the ticket are:

- David Shoebridge, Greens MP, Woollahra Local Councillor and former industrial relations barrister
- Jan Barham, Mayor of Byron Shire and long-time social justice and environmental campaigner
- Jeremy Buckingham, Greens regional spokesperson, Orange City Councillor and stonemason
- Lesa de Leau, Rockdale Local Councilor and former NTEU organizer and merchant banker

<http://nsw.greens.org.au/candidates>

## **Greens focus on regional communities**

The Greens have campaigned extensively in regional NSW in this election. The number 2 and number 3 candidates on the Greens Upper House ticket, Jan Barham and Jeremy Buckingham, are from regional NSW and, for the first time, Greens candidates in 6 rural electorates will be doing a mass mailout of Greens campaign materials. A key focus of our state-wide campaign is revitalizing regional NSW through green jobs initiatives, restoring regional rail and rural rail branch lines, and investing in public services outside of our cities. Food security has also been a key campaign issue.

## **Multicultural community work**

For the first time, the Greens have employed a Communities Organiser, Brami Jegan, who has been working with a range of multicultural communities and groups including Tamil, Pakistani, Chinese, Egyptian and Indigenous groups. She has also managed the translation of Greens campaign material. Brami is an Australian Tamil and refugee advocate and is number 6 on the Greens Upper House ticket.

## **Greens Real Change, For a Change campaign**

The Greens today launched our TV commercial for this campaign. This TVC is based on the Greens slogan for this campaign, Real Change, for a Change. It picks up three of the key differences between the Greens and the Coalition's policy commitments at this election: investment in renewable energy; public ownership of public assets; and shifting freight back to rail. The ad campaign also involves billboards in Sydney, regional TV commercials as well as online, print, phone booth and taxi back ads.

<http://www.youtube.com/TheGreensNSW#p/u/1/yOM7efkRuU>

## **Watch the Greens ABC Free to Air advertisement**

<http://www.youtube.com/TheGreensNSW#p/u/0/6ZtNQPw4ZHo>

## **The Greens Plan for NSW**

<http://nsw.greens.org.au/greens-plan>

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