

# LUKE FOLEY AND LABOR

## A NEW APPROACH FOR NSW



**STEVE WHAN | SHADOW MINISTER FOR RESOURCES & PRIMARY INDUSTRIES**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

*Wednesday, 25 March 2015*

#### **LABOR TO PROVIDE BOOST TO LANDCARE AND TARGET NOXIOUS WEEDS**

A Foley Labor Government will provide \$20 million to support the work of Landcare as a partner in improving our natural landscape, enhancing agricultural productivity and protecting biodiversity.

The \$20 million over four years for Landcare will allow the organisation to act independently of government agencies with the resources needed to pursue professional development, policy, research, monitoring and evaluation. The funding will also facilitate Landcare's partnerships with Aboriginal communities.

The investment in Landcare is part of Labor's comprehensive strategy to provide regional and rural communities with the tools they need to protect the assets they manage.

Labor's plan also includes the restoration of the Natural Resource Commission as a respected leader in scientifically based resource management and environment protection; a focus on building bush corridors across landscapes to improve ecological connectivity; and rebuilding the governance model for Local Land Services.

Labor will also implement a 'permitted list approach' to weeds and will retain a regional weeds committee structure consistent with the recommendations of the weeds report.

#### ***Quotes attributable to Shadow Minister for Resources & Primary Industries Steve Whan:***

"Landcare is a fantastic community-based organisation that is mostly made up of volunteers who understand that a strong natural environment delivers better social and economic outcomes for regional communities.

"Landcare has done so much to restore biodiversity and shift farming onto a more sustainable footing in NSW over many years – they should be proud of their achievements and be supported to keep going.

"A Labor Government will provide a \$20 million funding boost to Landcare to ensure that it can continue to do its good environmental work with rural and regional communities.

"Noxious weeds have a significant impact on the economy and our environment – estimated to cost \$1.2 billion a year in NSW alone.

"The Liberals and Nationals have failed to deliver on their election promise to increase weeds funding and have failed to take up the recommendations of their own weeds review.

"A Labor Government will act to curb noxious weeds by implementing a 'permitted list approach' to weeds management and will retain a regional weeds committee structure consistent with the recommendations of the weeds report."

#### **Media Contact**

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