

5/3/19

Response from The Greens NSW

Policy Objective 1: recognition of the importance of regional, rural and remote communities to the overall economic and social fabric of NSW:

A commitment to more equitable and significant funding for RRR areas, particularly for transformative infrastructure projects such as significant road projects linking Sydney to the west of the state, and the construction of new dams.

We agree on the need for more equitable and significant funding for RRR areas. We are cautious about supporting new dams and would only do so in accordance with our policies:

<https://greens.org.au/nsw/policies/water-urban> and <https://greens.org.au/nsw/policies/water-rural-and-agricultural>

The establishment and/or continuation of policy frameworks that encourage creation of jobs in RRR areas and encourage decentralisation.

Agree. For example we have a policy to create four renewable energy infrastructure hubs in RRR areas: <https://greens.org.au/nsw/renewables#upgrade>

A commitment to continued and ongoing drought support and recovery at the same level or above current initiatives. Specifically:

o funding should be made available to capture a larger pool of rate and fee relief including local government rates, vehicle rates and all other state- based statutory rates payable by farmers and farm-reliant contractos/businesses.

Agree.

o the current eligibility criteria for water infrastructure grants should also be urgently reviewed to provide a wider eligibility pool.

Agree.

Policy Objective 2: significant and equitable investment into health, education and social issues that impact regional, rural and remote areas:

A commitment to strongly lobby the federal government to place QVax on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Agree.

Better and increased storage of blood products across a wider range of regional, rural and remote hospitals, regardless of cost.

Agree.

A commitment to better nurse to patient ratios and a review of the decision relating to the need for registered nurses in high care nursing homes 24/7.

Agree.

Funding for the implementation of a cardiac bus service to visit and service country areas of NSW.

Agree.

Increased measures for the protection of health employees against violence and assaults whilst at work.

Agree.

Commitment to the development of a policy and any associated actions to assist and provide specific housing options for older women faced with homelessness or a housing crisis.

Agree. We are committed to building more social housing that guarantees affordability and security by charging rent as a proportion of income, and increasing federal funding for transitional housing and crisis services by \$500m a year. Both programs would be serviced by specialised and professional support, and all new buildings will be 100% accessible for people with mobility needs. More info: <https://greens.org.au/nsw/homes#universal> and <https://greens.org.au/nsw/homes#homelessness>

Commitment to equal access to education for RRR early learning and school aged children. In particular, increased funding for reliable mobile coverage and technology for rural and remote schools.

Agree. We will ensure every public school is funded to 100% of the Schooling Resource Standard by 2020: <https://greens.org.au/nsw/services#school>. We would support increasing funding for telecommunications in RRR schools.

Policy Objective 3: Ongoing and increased support for our agricultural industries:

Increased effort and funding to commit to the control and eradication (where possible) of feral pests, particularly feral cats and wild dogs. The full classification of deer as a pest animal across the state.

Agree.

Compulsory water metering of all water users within the Murray Darling Basin. A genuine and clear-cut commitment to protect agricultural land and water from inappropriate coal and coal seam gas developments, and urban development in general.

Agree. We have also called for a Royal Commission into the management of the Murray Darling Basin:

<https://greensmps.org.au/articles/greens%E2%80%99-murray-darling-basin-royal-commission-terms-released>