

**Penrith Press
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tackling noxious weeds; and \$2 million to enhance the Landcare Network.

Our commitment to a \$40 million fund for creating green corridors comes from listening to local concerns.

Our Green Corridors Fund will empower locals, through catchment management authorities, to have a greater say in purchases of local bushland to establish the green corridor in western Sydney, vital to the protection of Cumberland Wood Plain forest.

We are upgrading the reserve at Cranebrook from regional park (which permits tourism developments) to nature reserve – where all development is banned and this pristine forest is preserved forever.

Funding of \$5 million will subsidise netting for western Sydney orchards to protect produce, while implementing a total ban on the shooting of the vulnerable grey-headed flying fox, which plays an important role in biodiversity and forest regeneration.

Penrith Liberal MP Stuart Ayres and Liberal candidates have met locals,

including the Western Sydney Conservation Alliance, to discuss the protection of Cumberland forest. These meetings have been conducted in good faith, though that good faith apparently exists only on one side of the discussion.

It's disappointing that the WSCA has chosen to ignore these initiatives and also apparently to ignore the appalling record of NSW Labor on these and other issues.

I thank the many genuine western Sydney conservationists who have indicated they will embrace our offer of partnership to implement the \$103 million natural environment package that will turn great ideas into practical action.

**Catherine Cusack MLC
Opposition spokeswoman
on Climate Change and
Environmental
Sustainability**

THE Liberal and National team has announced a \$103 million package of initiatives for the natural environment which was developed in consultation with groups across NSW, including western Sydney conservation groups.

Locally, Nepean Valley volunteers working to restore degraded areas of creeks and forest will be supported by a package of \$10 million over four years for the work of local landcare, bushcare and rivercare groups in NSW. We have also committed an additional \$6 million for

EDITOR'S NOTE: We agreed to publish this letter as a response to an advertisement in Tuesday's edition placed by the Western Sydney Conservation Alliance, supported by the Humane Society International Australia.



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