

Labor shadow Minister Penny Sharpe's pledge on NSW Land Clearing and Biodiversity legislation.

NSW Labor understands that biodiversity is in decline in NSW, with clearing of native vegetation and the associated destruction of habitat being the single biggest threat.

We know the Berejiklian Government's land clearing laws have unleashed bulldozers and chainsaws on the state's trees and worsened the precarious situation for threatened native species such as our iconic koalas, as well as degrading our soil and water.

Since the Government's new laws began last year, satellite analysis found that land clearing has more than tripled the rate of deforestation in parts of northern NSW, with 14 football fields of koala habitat being cleared every day.

Labor is committed to reinstating the protections to maintain and improve biodiversity that were lost under the Liberals' and Nationals' so-called biodiversity conservation reforms.

Labor will return the biodiversity conservation laws of NSW to laws based on science, and we will support those who work every day to protect biodiversity. We will work with scientists, farmers, environmentalists, and other landholders to remake the biodiversity laws to stop deforestation.

Labor will establish a biodiversity taskforce to prepare legislative and policy amendments to make sure that, longer-term, we can re-establish a robust regulatory system to protect the environment, save threatened species from extinction, ensure healthy soil and water for food production and habitat, and enhance carbon storage to reduce the impacts of climate change.

In addition to the \$240 million invested in the Biodiversity Conservation Trust, Labor's review will also provide options for increasing investment in biodiversity conservation on private and public land.

Penny Sharpe
Shadow Minister for Planning, Environment and Heritage.