

In the lead-up to the State Election there are many issues which need to be discussed. While health, education and transport gain much of our attention, there are other crucial areas which need to be considered before we vote in 2011.

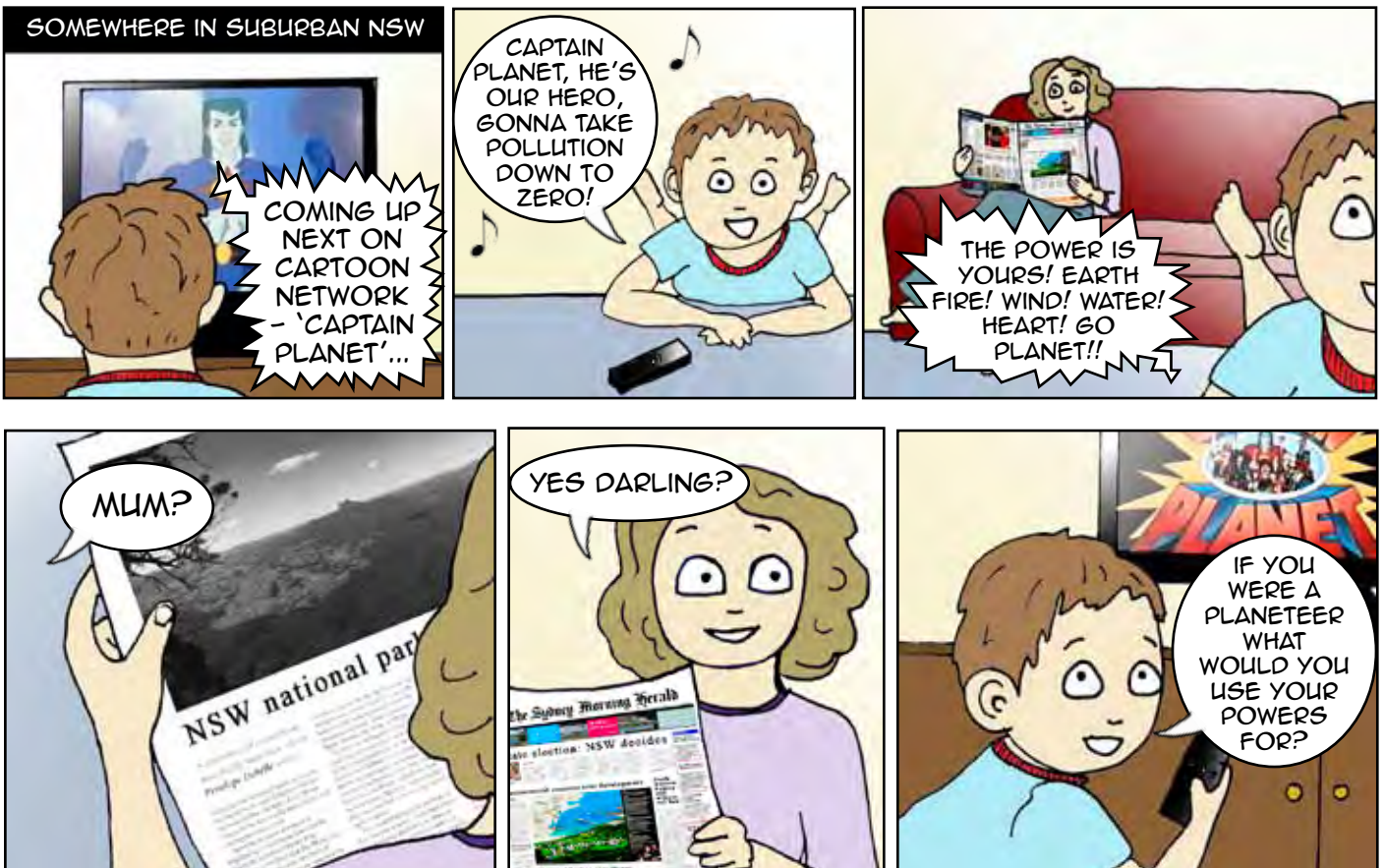
Massive initiatives such as the controversial emissions trading scheme may give the impression that, when it comes to the environment, the federal government holds the reigns. Our state leaders do, however, have a lot of power to do both good and harm to our environment and our future.

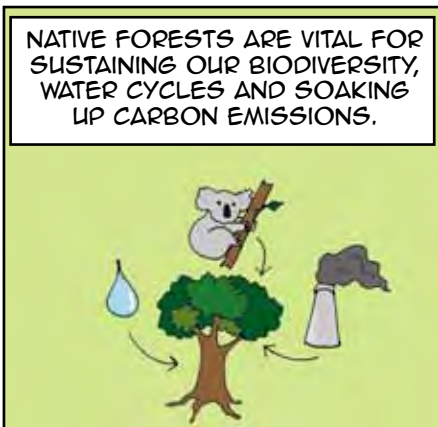
Indeed the areas of influence of our state leaders are so numerous that we couldn't discuss all of them in one or two issues of **Watermark**. That is why we have decided to do something a little bit different, and present the last issues of **Watermark** for 2010 in comic form!

THE POWER IS YOURS takes you through some of the most important ecological issues facing our state in the lead-up to the election. We hope that this comic inspires you to find out more before going to the polls.

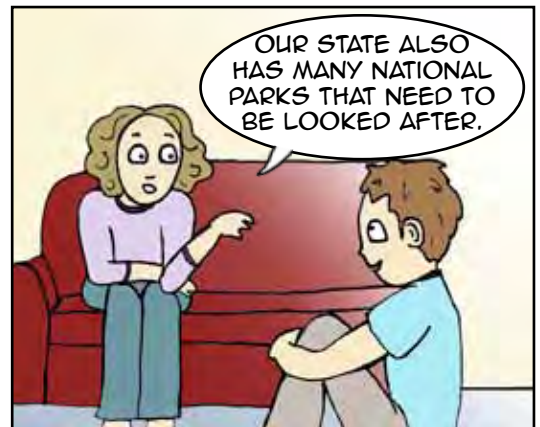
THE POWER IS YOURS

(PART ONE)





Did you know?
Gunns Limited, one of Tasmania's largest forestry companies, recently decided to stop logging native forests. In NSW, however, the government is considering a deal with Nippon Paper Group to build a biomass plant fuelled by "waste" from native forests.



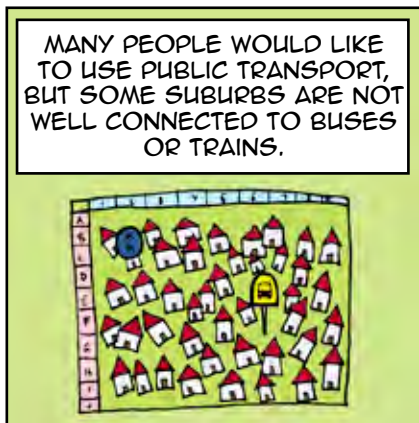
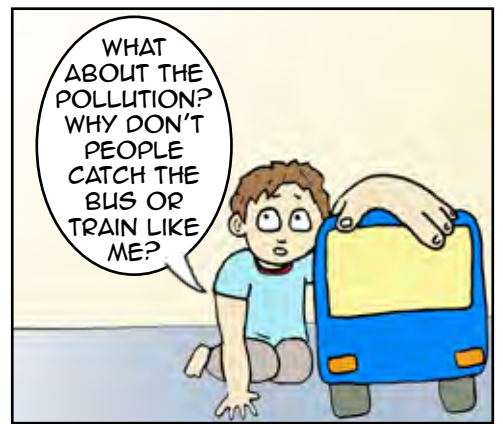
Did you know?
A campaign is underway to protest the proposed development of an old air services site in Cranebrook into residential land. The Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC) believe that this site has great conservation value and should be placed under the management of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.





Did you know?

In recent years, reforms have been made to planning laws in NSW which have made it easier for large developments to be pushed through without sufficient environmental assessments or community consultations.

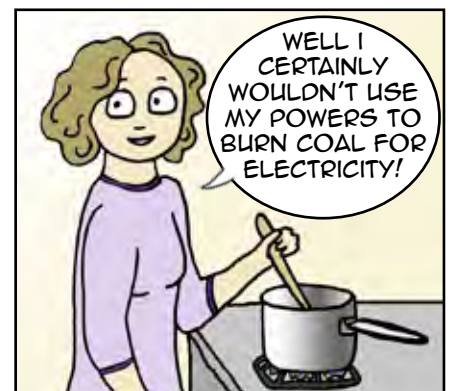
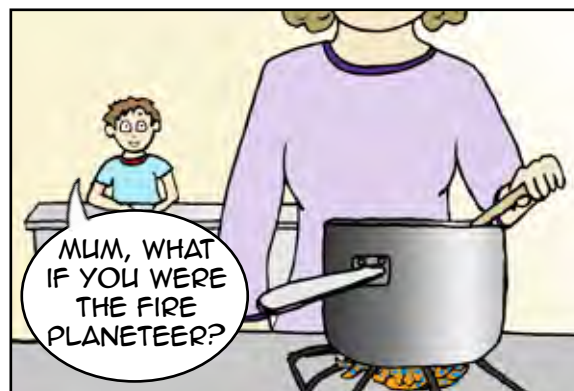


Did you know?

The north-western suburbs of Sydney have been waiting decades for a rail link to connect them to metropolitan Sydney. Successive NSW governments have promised to deliver this link. As yet none have delivered.



LUNCHTIME





Did you know?
 The NSW government recently approved an upgrade to Munmorah Power Station in eastern NSW. Despite acknowledging that NSW needs to drastically reduce its carbon dioxide emissions, the government has extended the life of this coal-fired power plant into the future.


LATER THAT AFTERNOON



Did you know?
 Only about 6% of electricity used in NSW comes from renewable sources.
 The solar bonus scheme implemented by the NSW government has been a huge success. Some argue it has been too successful, blowing out electricity costs for those without solar panels. Parliament is currently debating slashing the feed-in tariff for solar users.

TO BE CONTINUED
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Want to know what happens next? The final installment of *THE POWER IS YOURS* will be available in December. In the meantime we hope that the following links are helpful in your own search for information before the NSW state election.

<p>Nature Conservation Council NSW http://www.nccnsw.org.au</p>	<p>Watch original episodes of 'Captain Planet' on youtube http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_TE3yuGqw</p>
<p>Environmental Defender's Office NSW http://www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/default.php</p>	 <p>CLRI(NSW) website www.clrinsw.org</p>

Watermark is an occasional publication of the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes in NSW. *THE POWER IS YOURS* has been written and illustrated by Frances Egan. Contact CLRI(NSW) at clrinsw@ozemail.com.au or by phone at (02) 9663 2199.