



In this issue of **Watermark**, we continue with part two of **THE POWER IS YOURS**. In the previous issue, mother and son discussed the environmental issues facing our state. From landcare and transport to sustainable development and renewable energy, part one dealt with the “earth”, “fire” and “wind” issues in New South Wales.

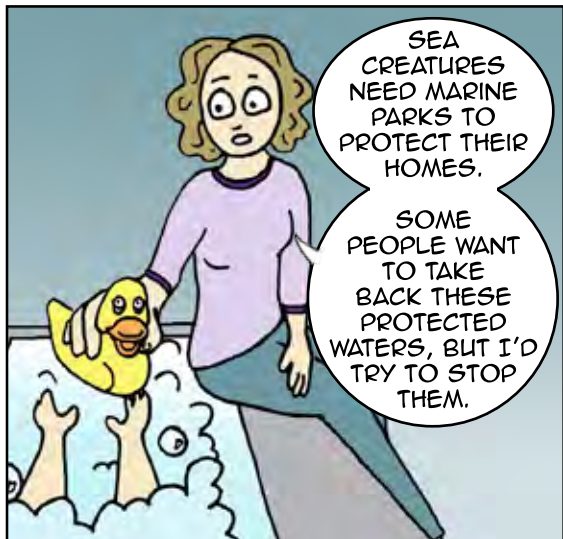
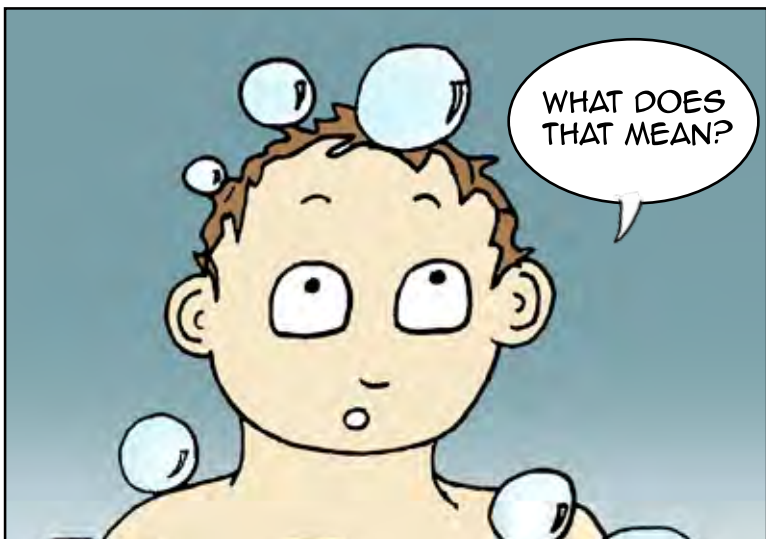
In the final installment of **Watermark** for 2010, we look at the environmental issues facing NSW through the framework of “water” and “heart”.

Over the coming holiday period, we invite you to consider what is at stake in the upcoming state elections. It is helpful to think about ecological issues from more than just a global perspective. Real action to protect the future of our natural world starts at home, in our backyards, neighbourhoods, suburbs, cities, and ultimately in the ballot box.

# THE POWER IS YOURS

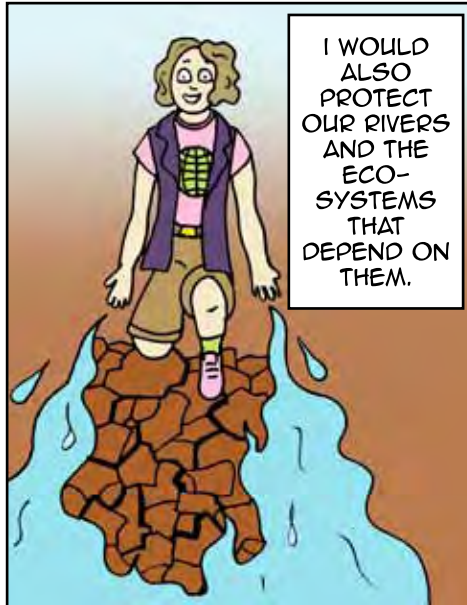
(PART TWO)

CONTINUED FROM LAST WATERMARK...  
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BATHTIME



## Did you know?

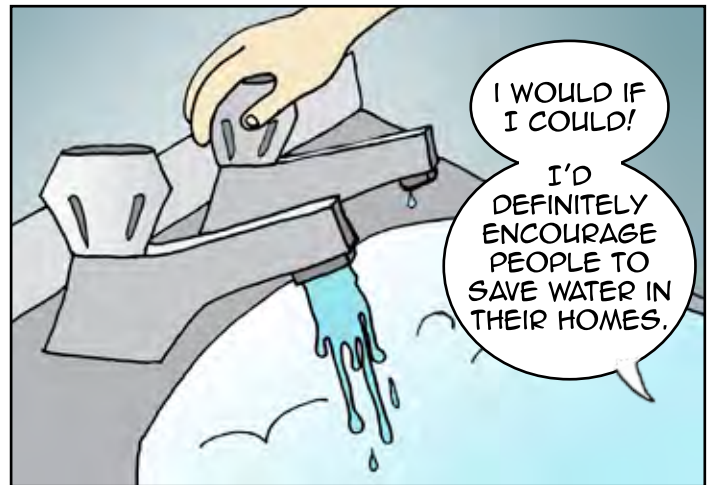
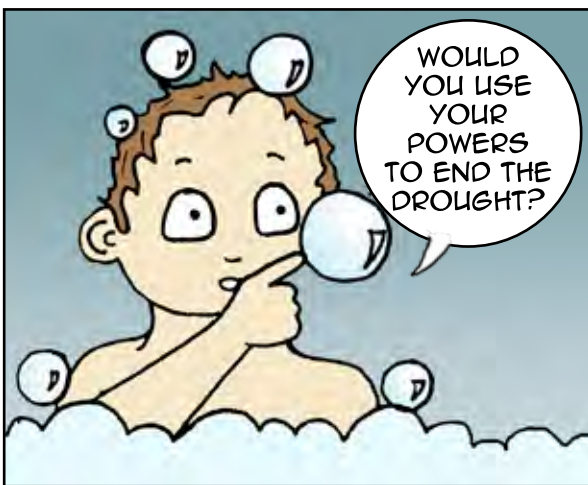
After defeating a proposition to place a five year moratorium on the creation of any new marine sanctuaries in NSW, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC) is pushing for the creation of a new marine park right in the heart of Sydney. The waters of the city are home to an incredible diversity of creatures and it is the hope of the NCC that they can be officially protected.



## Did you know?

The government recently scrapped plans to build the Tillegra Dam which was proposed as a way of guaranteeing water for Hunter Valley residents in times of drought.

The proposed dam was met with fierce opposition due to the toll it would take on the Williams River and the ecosystems the river supports.

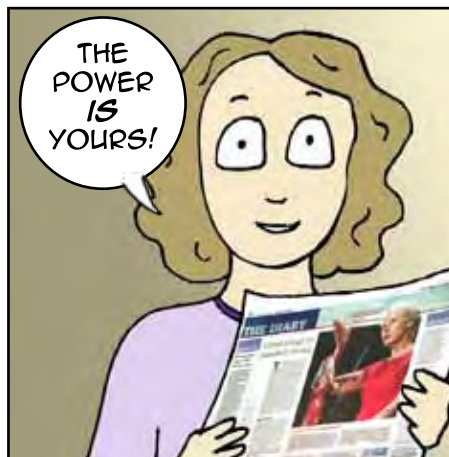
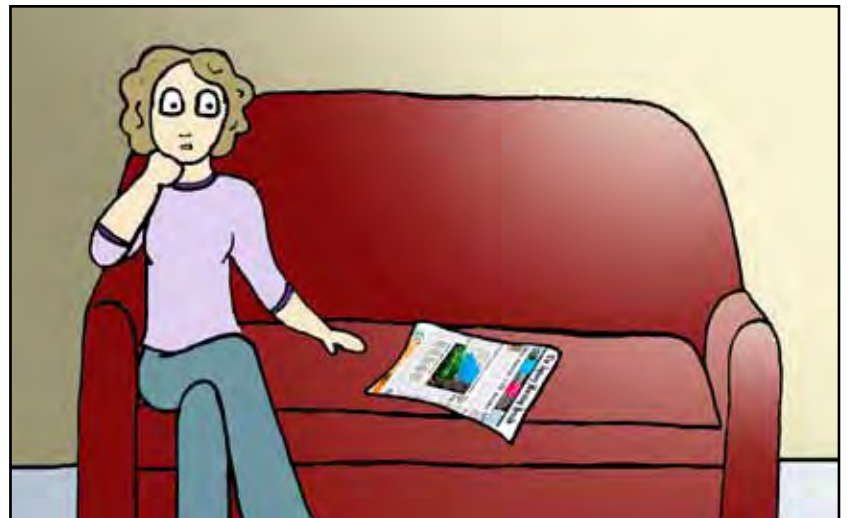
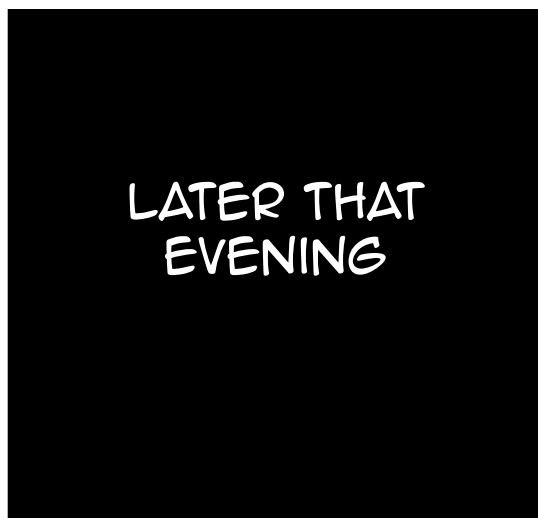


## Did you know?

For years the NSW government has tried to encourage people to save water in their homes. Rules such as no watering of hard surfaces and no watering between 10am and 4pm have helped people to decrease water wastage. The government also offers a range of rebates for households installing water-saving mechanisms such as rainwater tanks, solar hot water systems and dual-flush toilets.

**BEDTIME**





## The power IS yours

It seems these days in politics that the alternatives are not as clear as they once were. Whether left or right leaning, those in power all over the world have been slow to react to growing support for climate change action. Political indecision can leave ordinary people feeling disempowered and hopeless, yet it is important to remember that each of us has the ability to contribute to change.

One way in which we can do this is through our vote. But before we arrive at the ballot box, there is more we can do. Each of us can call, write to, or arrange a meeting with our local member or political candidates and let them know that we care about the planet. Caring for the environment is not just a federal issue, but an issue of priority for the state government also.

As ***THE POWER IS YOURS*** has illustrated, the next NSW government will have many environmental issues to address. Each of us needs to remain a watchful part of this process - ever ready to hold our leaders to account for their decisions, and to encourage them to act in the best interests of our environment.

## Climate frontline

It seems that it was only weeks ago that we were waiting with anticipation for the results of the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. Many hoped that this conference, which was held in December last year, would result in an international agreement securing strong global action to fight climate change. In attendance at last year's conference was a delegation from the Pacific Calling Partnership (PCP). With passion and resolve, they shared stories of the threat that global warming and rising oceans posed to their island homes in the Pacific.

While the PCP received strong responses on the ground, the overall outcome of the conference was a disappointment. Rather than giving up, however, the PCP have travelled to

Cancun, Mexico, to attend the 2010 United Nations Climate Change Conference. These dedicated people will continue to fight for eco-justice for however long it takes.

Let us all keep the PCP, and the people they represent, in our minds and prayers, and take a lesson from their determination. No matter the outcome of the NSW state elections, we must all continue to fight for just environmental outcomes, for however long it takes.

## Web Links



### Nature Conservation Council of NSW

<http://www.nccnsw.org.au>

### Household Water Efficiency Tips

<http://www.waterforlife.nsw.gov.au/waterefficiency/households>

### Pacific Calling Partnership

<http://www.erc.org.au>

### Find out what's been happening at the Cancun conference

<http://www.oxfam.org.au/blogs/tag/un-climate-trackers>

### Read past issues of Watermark online

[www.clrinsw.org](http://www.clrinsw.org)

The Social Justice Committee of CLRI(NSW) would like to wish all of our readers a very happy and peaceful Christmas and new year.

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**Watermark** is an occasional publication of the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes in NSW

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