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MEDIA RELEASE

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Environment lawyers congratulate new environment NSW Minister

The National Environmental Law Association has congratulated the NSW MP Rob Stokes on his appointment as Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage and Assistant Minister for Planning in that state.

In a letter to the Minister they say his strong background in environmental law and renewable energy means he brings significant experience and insight to the role.

NELA President Amanda Cornwall said 'we urge Minister Stokes to take action in a number of areas in that have been reviewed but not actioned over the past decade. They include native vegetation clearing controls and biobanking, long term strategic planning, effective urban design and infrastructure, and harmonising the development consent and environment protection licensing procedures.

NELA also welcomes the announcement to combine the departments responsible for the sustainable development of NSW by creating the Department of Planning and Environment.

'We hope this signals the NSW Government's intention to put sustainability at the heart NSW's private and public infrastructure, development controls and resource management', said Ms Cornwall.