

## news

### Greens councillor wins pre-selection

Chris Parker, who stood for the seat of Hunter in the Federal Election, has been endorsed by the Upper Hunter Greens to stand as a candidate in that seat in next month's State Election.

His campaign will be launched at a function in Muswellbrook on February 17 where Greens Senator David Shoebridge will be in attendance.

"The Upper Hunter, the largest electorate, has serious issues affecting the environment and local health that cannot be ignored", Chris Parker said.

"The lack of reliable medical and educational services coupled with the disastrous effect all aspects of mining are having on the community will be the main focus of the Greens in this election.

"I believe that we must act now before it is too late to right the imbalance that is destroying the valley and the health of its residents.

"It is vital that we move positively towards the establishment of renewable energy projects.

"The current Government or any subsequent Government must not be allowed to ignore the plight of the Valley."

Mr Parker said that the destruction of the environment in the Upper Hunter had been too much, too quick with devastating effect on the environment.

"Now I am concerned that the Bylong Valley is heading in the same direction," he said.

"It appals me that such pristine agricultural land as that in the Bylong Valley may be placed at this severe risk of destruction and as a result may one day present the same ugly sight that now exists just down the range.

"As far as I and the Greens are concerned, the only policy should be no more approval of mining leases and we are totally opposed to any coal seam gas projects.