



• Former NSW Premier Bob Carr (right) with Jim Collins at the Bournda Environmental Education Centre's World Environment Day dinner at the Bega showground pavilion on Saturday.

Lobby for nature

Claire Lupton

IF BOB Carr's message at the World Environment Day dinner is adhered to, Federal, State and local councillors should be inundated with lobbying letters and emails from those at the meeting.

There might also be a blitz of letters to the editors of local and national papers.

"Who will speak for nature?" was the theme of Mr Carr's speech, and the phrase he borrowed from Prince Charles.

Mr Carr wants action on three main issues, population growth, carbon pricing and refuting global warming and climate change skeptics.

He said that in 1971 American biologist Paul Ehrlich was in Australia stressing the enormous problems associated with overpopulation and the

impact of population growth on the environment.

Since Ehrlich made those statements the world population has virtually doubled, Mr Carr said, and will reach nine billion by the middle of the century.

Although Ehrlich's most dire predictions had not happened they had been averted by clearing forests for farming or even worse, such as in the Amazon, cutting down rainforests for urbanisation.

"Instead of encouraging population growth we should be accepting the ageing of the population and keep older people in the workforce, not encourage more and more immigration."

Mr Carr said Australia just did not have enough water to service the population it has so each capital is building desalination

plants and prime farmland on the outskirts of the cities could well be turned into suburbs.

"We need a sensible policy on population," he said.

He told the 100 plus diners that those speaking for nature should cultivate those in parliament who are conservationists or sympathetic to the cause, no matter what party they are in.

Since leaving parliament Mr Carr has been concentrating his environmental efforts in trying to save the Murray River Red River Gums, and he told local conservationists not to give up on their efforts in the local forests, it just takes time.

Mr Carr's last message was to "take on the climate change deniers".

"Counter the heretics and eccentrics.

"Speak up for nature."



• Kathy Jones (right) who gave the Welcome to Country at the Environment dinner with Doug Reckord of the Bournda Environmental Education Centre and her sister, Carol Dixon.



• Helen Carr meets Peggy Hambley (left) and Jan Goodall at the Bournda Environment Centre dinner.