

Keneally creates new environment

KRISTINA Keneally has ruled out a ban on new coal-fired power generators, signalling that the "greening" of the NSW Labor government under her predecessor, Nathan Rees, has ended.

In a further sign that jobs and investment have moved to centre stage under the new Premier, Mrs Keneally has indicated she will revisit Mr Rees's decision, announced on his final day in office, to establish a national park to preserve river red gums on the Murray.

Both decisions suggest former premier Bob Carr — who helped shape Mr Rees's position on the red gums and other environmental issues — will have less influence in Mrs Keneally's administration.

On ABC TV on Thursday, Mr Carr implored Mrs Keneally not to jettison Mr Rees's position on the red gums and to announce "there'll be no more coal-fired power in NSW" and that "we can meet the energy requirements of

the state through gas and renewables".

While acknowledging Mr Carr as "a great friend and mentor", Mrs Keneally rejected the suggestions and told *The Weekend Australian* any decision on a fuel source for a new baseload power station in NSW would be left to the private sector.

"On electricity generation, we've laid out a process and we have been neutral on the position of whether it's coal or gas fired," she said. "That's something the market will determine in the light of such factors as the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme."

On the establishment of a national park on the Murray River near Deniliquin, in southwest NSW, Mrs Keneally said there would be a park, but signalled the details were still open to negotiation. Local industry has warned the plan threatens up to 500 jobs.

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