



NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF NSW

protecting nature through community action

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NEWSLETTER NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

Special Election edition 2019 126

SOUTHERN SYDNEY BRANCH

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ISSUE: 126

Connectivity and corridors

In This Issue:

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- A Cleaner, Greener NSW
- Labor's plans for national parks
- Liberal policy announcements
- Safer road crossings for Koalas
- Long-wall mining and our drinking catchments
- Marine Sanctuaries

BUSINESS MEETINGS All are welcome to attend, have your say and hear what's happening in the NPA. Contact Peter on 95287341 or Gary on 95701813 for details. These meetings are now held on either the 1st or 2nd Wednesdays of the month, except when this coincides with school holidays

BRANCH MEETINGS: Come and meet other members from your local area, new members and friends are most welcome. These meetings are organised for you, are informal, informative and relaxing. An interesting evening is guaranteed and supper is provided. The venue for Branch meetings is the Multi-Purpose Centre, 123 Flora St Sutherland (near Belmont St) 3 minutes' walk from the railway station and with plenty of parking. All meetings commence at 8.00pm. Now held on the 4th Wednesday night every second month.

The next meeting is March 20th for a special showing of Give a Dam!!!!

8pm Multi-Purpose Centre 123 Flora St Sutherland (near Belmont St)

Please come!

A Cleaner, Greener NSW

Members of the NPA are only too well aware that a healthy environment is central to the health and well-being of every member of our society and that is central, also, to a healthy economy. It is quite obvious to anyone that without a healthy environment all else fails.

With that in mind NPA and other conservation organisations in the State developed a manifesto called "A Cleaner, Greener NSW". You can get the entire document from <https://www.nature.org.au/media/324115/final-election-platform-2019-single-pagescompressed.pdf>

Pages 3 and 4 of this special newsletter outline in summary the issues we consider important and within the entire document there is detail about what that means. You, our members, will no doubt have a particular focus on different aspects of that set of demands and might even have approached our MLA's and declared candidates to seek their views on those issues.

NPA has also done that. It would be remiss of us if we did not. We are non-party political but we must be political and therefore it is our duty to try to influence each and every candidate to follow policies we believe will improve the health of our environment and therefore benefit us all!

There are some key state-wide issues that NPA has a vested interest in. They include but are not limited to the following:

- State policies to reduce human-induced global warming
- State policies to improve environmental flows in our river systems and to return those rivers to health
- State policies that will reduce the clearing of native vegetation
- State policies that will protect our extraordinary biodiversity, across all ecosystems
- And a healthy, well-managed national park system. It is not good enough to have to fight to protect a National Park and Wildlife Service from its political masters. We must also ensure it is adequately resourced, that is functioning effectively and that its morale is strong.

To that end, NPA is campaigning to ensure that

- There is no degazettal of any national park or nature reserve in NSW. The threat to overturn the decision to protect the Murray Valley River Red Gums is an appalling one and one we will resist. Equally, the proposed threats to overturn marine sanctuaries is another we oppose.
- Kosciuszko National Park is protected. The current law that protects feral horses to the detriment of the Park and our own wildlife is an extraordinary decision.

In addition your local NPA Branch is concerned about:

- The integrity of Royal National Park
- Marine sanctuaries off our coast
- The catchments and threats to our water from long wall mining
- Threats to our koala population

1**SLASH CLIMATE POLLUTION AND UNLEASH CLEAN ENERGY**

- 1.1 SET BINDING CLEAN-ENERGY TARGETS
- 1.2 CREATE A \$2 BILLION REGIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND
- 1.3 PROVIDE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO CHEAP CLEAN ENERGY
- 1.4 SET A BINDING TARGET OF NET-ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS BY 2040

2**SAVE LAND, WATER AND CLIMATE FROM COAL, UNCONVENTIONAL GAS AND URANIUM**

- 2.1 ISSUE NO NEW COAL EXPLORATION LICENCES OR MINING LEASES
- 2.2 BAN UNCONVENTIONAL GAS DEVELOPMENT
- 2.3 MAKE COMPANIES PAY FULL REHABILITATION COSTS
- 2.4 OVERHAUL PLANNING PROCESSES FOR MAJOR PROJECTS
- 2.5 BAN URANIUM EXPLORATION AND NUCLEAR WASTE DUMPS

3**CLEAN UP OUR AIR**

- 3.1 IMPLEMENT AN AMBITIOUS AIR POLLUTION REDUCTION STRATEGY
- 3.2 ADOPT BEST-PRACTICE AIR QUALITY STANDARDS
- 3.3 SLASH EMISSIONS FROM POWER STATIONS
- 3.4 MAKE POLLUTERS PAY
- 3.5 STRENGTHEN VEHICLE EMISSION STANDARDS

4**EXPAND AND PROTECT OUR NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDERNESS**

- 4.1 RAPIDLY EXPAND THE NATIONAL PARKS ESTATE
- 4.2 INCREASE THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE BUDGET BY \$150 MILLION BY 2022
- 4.3 BAN DESTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES IN NATIONAL PARKS
- 4.4 DO NOT RAISE THE WARRAGAMBA DAM WALL
- 4.5 PROTECT ALL REMAINING WILDERNESS

5**END NATIVE FOREST LOGGING AND PROTECT KOALAS**

- 5.1 END NATIVE FOREST LOGGING
- 5.2 MANAGE PUBLIC NATIVE FORESTS AS A MIX OF PROTECTED AREAS
- 5.3 ESTABLISH THE GREAT KOALA NATIONAL PARK
- 5.4 PROTECT KOALA HABITAT
- 5.5 BAN BURNING NATIVE FORESTS FOR ELECTRICITY

6**CONSERVE AND RESTORE WILDLIFE HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEMS**

- 6.1 END DEFORESTATION AND EXCESSIVE LAND CLEARING
- 6.2 ESTABLISH A \$1.5 BILLION LAND AND BIODIVERSITY FUND
- 6.3 STRICTLY LIMIT BIODIVERSITY OFFSETTING
- 6.4 RETAIN AND CONSERVE CROWN LAND
- 6.5 TACKLE INVASIVE SPECIES

7**SAVE OUR GREEN SPACES AND URBAN TREES**

- 7.1 PROTECT OUR GREEN SPACES IN LAW
- 7.2 MAINTAIN URBAN TREES AND INCREASE THE URBAN TREE CANOPY
- 7.3 ENSURE EVERYBODY CAN ACCESS GREEN SPACE
- 7.4 ESTABLISH A THREE-YEAR, \$450 MILLION HEALTHY AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES FUND

8**RESTORE RIVERS AND WETLANDS AND DELIVER WATER JUSTICE**

- 8.1 MANDATE ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS
- 8.2 TIGHTEN THE WATER-USE MONITORING REGIME
- 8.3 CONTROL FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING
- 8.4 RULE OUT NEW DAMS

9**PROTECT OUR OCEAN WILDLIFE**

- 9.1 CREATE A SYDNEY MARINE PARK
- 9.2 INVEST IN RESTORING MARINE HABITATS
- 9.3 BAN OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS MINING
- 9.4 PROTECT OUR MARINE PARKS

10**WAGE WAR ON PLASTICS AND WASTE**

- 10.1 BAN PLASTIC BAGS AND MICROBEADS
- 10.2 SLASH THE USE OF PLASTICS (CONSUMER)
- 10.3 SLASH THE USE OF PLASTICS (MANUFACTURING)
- 10.4 OVERHAUL THE WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Labor unveils comprehensive plan to rebuild National Parks in NSW

Deputy Labor Leader Penny Sharpe announced Labor's plan to rebuild the National Parks estate of NSW and repair the damage to the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) that has occurred after eight years of cuts and neglect by the Liberals and Nationals.

Labor's plan includes elevating the NPWS to report directly to the Minister, reinstating a formal establishment plan for National Parks, creating new National Parks and employing additional officers to manage and care for this precious public asset.

Key policies in Labor's plan include:

Employing 200 additional field officers to undertake targeted pest control and boost firefighting capacity;
Investing in 60 new officers to restore the damaged mountain catchments of Kosciuszko National Park;
Creating a koala national park in south-west Sydney to protect the only disease-free koala colony in NSW;
Recommitting to a Great Koala National Park in northern NSW;
Nominating the Royal National Park for World Heritage Listing;
Returning Me-mel (Goat Island) to the Aboriginal people of NSW; and
Additional resources for weeds and pest management.

See:

<https://www.michaeldaley.com.au/labor-unveils-comprehensive-plan-to-rebuild-national-parks-in-nsw>

And, just as important, is its commitment to biodiversity!

Labor will protect and improve our biodiversity Biodiversity is in decline in NSW.

The latest NSW State of the Environment report (2015) shows that this decline is continuing with 1,000 species of plants and animals and 108 ecological communities listed as threatened under NSW Legislation.

Clearing of native vegetation and the associated destruction of habitat is the single biggest threat to biodiversity in NSW.

Only 9 per cent of NSW native vegetation is considered to be in good condition. NSW soils are continuing to deteriorate, with 74 per cent of priority soil units being rated as poor or very poor. New South Wales continues to lose much of its soil to erosion at the same time as salinity and acidification continue to rise.

Labor will establish a biodiversity taskforce to make recommendations to remake the Local Land Services Act 2013 and the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

Labor is committed to reinstating protections to maintain and improve biodiversity that were lost under the Liberals' and Nationals' biodiversity conservation reforms.

Labor will work with scientists, farmers, environmentalists, and other landholders to return the biodiversity conservation laws of NSW to laws based on science and capable of stopping deforestation.

Labor's review will ensure that, longer-term, we can re-establish a robust regulatory system to protect the environment, save threatened species from extinction, ensure healthy soil and water for food production and habitat, and enhance carbon storage to reduce the impacts of climate change.

Working with our colleagues in Federal Labor and their recent commitment to establishing a new Australian Environment Act to replace current national biodiversity laws, NSW Labor will work to actively protect our unique natural environment with laws informed by the best available scientific advice.

The Biodiversity Taskforce will be asked to prepare legislative and policy advice that will seek to:

Reinstate the 'maintain or improve' tests;

Include greenhouse gas emissions and climate change impact;

Limit the discretion of the minister;

Include no go zones where offsetting cannot occur;

Ensure offsetting follows the 'like for like' principle;

Prohibit mine rehabilitation sites for use as offsets;

Close loop holes that allow reduction in offsets;

Ensure consistency between Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and Local Land Services Act 2013;

Reinstate licensing arrangements for harming native wildlife;

Ensure that double-dipping on offsets cannot occur;

Ensure that voluntary stewardship agreements are recognised as such and not as offsets;

Reinsert the deleted provision of the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 that allows listing of local populations; and

Examine the mapping and codes.

In addition to the \$240 million invested in the Biodiversity Conservation Trust, the review will also provide options for increasing investment in biodiversity conservation on private and public land.

See:

<https://www.michaeldaley.com.au/labor-s-plan-to-protect-our-environment-and-address-climate-change>

The Liberal Party and the Environment

The Liberal Party webpage on its environment policies can be found at <https://nsw.liberal.org.au/Our-Plans/Policies/PROTECTING-OUR-ENVIRONMENT>

It is promising to invest \$22.4 million in Landcare NSW to help it to deliver more initiatives for the environment and provide more support to their volunteers.

In addition the Liberal Party announced the creation of a new national park centred around Tugalong Station. The State's newest national park will cover around 3680 hectares in the north of Goulburn electorate, bordering Wollondilly.

In that same announcement the Government promised \$150 million investment to improve access to existing national parks includes upgraded walking tracks, better visitor infrastructure and facilities and new digital tools such as virtual tours and livestreaming cameras.

This would include:

- More access – significant upgrade to the 13.6 kilometre Grand Cliff Top Walk from Wentworth Falls to Katoomba in the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (\$10 million). Also, upgrading access to iconic lookout points to a mobility impaired access standard (\$9.9 million);
- Improved park visitor infrastructure and facilities – expansion of picnic areas, BBQs, water provision, facilities (\$38.7 million) and increased support for families and people with restricted mobility (\$45 million). This will include upgraded picnic facilities and the walking tracks at Audley Weir, in the Royal National Park.
- Safe access – Investment in making our extensive network of walking tracks and trails safer and more accessible (\$36.4 million); expansion of the 'Think before you Trek' safety program for bushwalkers and work with other agencies to deliver other priority safety programs like rock fishing and enhanced mobile connectivity in the parks (\$1 million).

See: <https://nsw.liberal.org.au/candidates/gladys-berejiklian/news/articles/A-NEW-NATIONAL-PARK-FOR-NSW>

See more also on their plan to provide access to national parks at:

<https://nsw.liberal.org.au/Our-Plans/Policies/IMPROVING-ACCESS-TO-NATIONAL-PARKS>

The Greens

For a detailed look at the Greens policy go to <https://greens.org.au/nsw/environment>

In summary they wish to:

Protect native forests. Stop logging of native forests by scrapping Regional Forest Agreements, and reinstate laws to protect native habitats from private land clearing.

Preserve pristine wilderness areas. Create a Great Koala National Park in northern NSW and stop plans to flood the Blue Mountains World Heritage-listed wilderness.

Restore rivers to health. Call a Royal Commission into management of the Murray Darling River system, while enacting plans to restore river catchments throughout NSW and ensuring strict management of water flows

Solve the waste crisis. Overhaul our waste management system and develop initiatives to encourage a circular economy that reuses and recycles materials instead of sending them to landfill.

Protect marine environments. Create a marine park in Sydney and a strong network of marine protected areas along the NSW coast. Get rid of shark nets and stop seismic testing for offshore gas.

And

Restore national parks. Return funding and increase staff for national parks throughout NSW, which have been subject to severe cutbacks

Specifically on that last point they claim that the current Liberal-National Government has slashed funding to national parks in NSW and presided over massive cuts to staff numbers and resourcing. The Greens will restore our network of NSW national parks. We will:

Increase the annual national parks budget by \$50 million.

Expand our network of national parks to include a new Great Koala National Park in Northern NSW, and expand the Gardens of Stone National Park near Lithgow and Clyde River National Park.

Ban activities with high environmental impacts including hunting, grazing and high-impact development, which often require land clearing.

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party

Yes, they do have a policy on our environment. It states:

1. Require all decisions taken by natural resource managers, including NSW Government Departments, to give a balanced consideration to environmental, social and economic issues during the decision-making process.
2. Implement an active adaptive management system to replace the 'lock-it-up-and-leave-it' approach of the past. Biodiversity conservation in NSW requires a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) reserve system.
3. Reinstate and maintain fire trails on all public lands as well as controlled burning is a viable option to restore Native Forest health and mitigate risk of future uncontrolled wild fires.
4. Ensure environmental water flows are not set without consideration of the impacts on regional communities and fish stocks.
5. Introduce volunteer conservation hunting to control vertebrate pests on all NSW public lands.
6. Reject the use of the precautionary principle as it offers no viable reasoning or scientific rationalism in the conservation of the environment.
7. Allow National Parks to be sustainably managed and encourage recreational use as originally envisaged under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1967.
8. We support a new model whereby all forests, including those in National Parks, are managed by a single, state-based, natural resources agency that encourages active managements and sustainable utilisation.
9. Management of woody weeds to maintain biological diversity.
10. Protection and better management of estuaries as multi-use environments through a unitary management approached across all agencies.

You can make of that what you will!

Safer Road crossings for Koalas and other animals to enable connectivity provided by wildlife corridors.

The Branch is working with other Branches and conservationists to protect important corridors for our koala population. Below is what our candidates have provided on this important issue.

A: Labor

Response from Ryan Park, MP, Member for Keira

Thank you for taking the time to write to me regarding the loss of koala habitat and the Berejiklian Government's tree clearing laws in Illawarra Region. These laws have resulted in increased rates of clearing and the destruction of precious habitat for native wildlife.

NSW Labor has consistently opposed these changes, voting against the bills in the Parliament and taking the message out to communities around the state.

NSW Labor is proud of its history on environmental protection. We are particularly proud of our history in implementing the Native Vegetation Act and the Threatened Species Act, which have been vital to protecting the beautiful environment and wildlife of NSW.

Under Labor's previous laws broad scale tree clearing dropped by 88%, from 80,000 to 1,000 hectares per year, and there were 53,000 fewer animal deaths each year. These laws also helped Australia meet its commitments on much-needed carbon emissions reductions.

The current Liberal-National Government's policies destroy this environmental legacy and take biodiversity protection in NSW backwards.

This Liberal-National Government has a disturbing record when it comes to koala populations plummeting in NSW in recent years. We now face the real prospect of koalas becoming extinct in NSW within the next couple of decades.

That's why Labor has proposed a set of strong measures to protect koalas. A Labor Government will:

- prioritise the creation of national parks that protect the remaining koala populations on the North Coast of NSW;
- hold a NSW Koala Summit to bring together experts and all stakeholders concerned with koala protection to plan effective action across the state; and
- wind back the disastrous changes to tree clearing laws undertaken by the Berejiklian Government to stop the clearing of high conservation value areas like koala habitat.

NSW Labor will work to ensure that our legislative and regulatory regime provides robust protections for our natural environment.

From Maryanne Stuart, ALP Candidate, Heathcote

A future Labor Government is committed to creating a koala national park in south-west Sydney and included in that commitment is the construction of wildlife protection measures along roads like Appin Road and Heathcote Road. This will include overpasses, underpasses and fences.

Labor acknowledges the need for wildlife protection measures on the state's roads, and our initial priority is Appin and Heathcote Roads due to the large number of koala deaths from vehicle strikes in recent years, but we would be pleased to further investigate other priority areas to prevent harm to native wildlife.

As this matter falls under the portfolio of Roads, I have forwarded a copy of your correspondence to the Shadow Minister for Transport, and Shadow Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight for her consideration, the Hon Jodi McKay.

B: Greens

Combined response from Jonathan Doig, Greens Candidate for Cronulla and Mitchell Shakespeare, Greens Candidate for Heathcote.

The Greens place care for the environment and our native species at the heart of our policy.

I can personally commit to work with the National Parks Association of NSW and other stakeholders to address the need to do more to ensure the survival of Koalas and other animals by providing safer wildlife crossings.

Greens MLC Dawn Walker has done a great deal of work on this issue. I have included her response below:

"The Greens have been strong advocates calling for greater protections for Campbelltown's koalas, which are facing growing threats from urban development and road congestion in the area. It's alarming that up to three koalas are being killed or rescued along Appin Road and other nearby roads each week and urgent measures need to be put in place to protect this koala colony.

Greens MP, Dawn Walker has called on the State Environment Minister to intervene and help secure greater protection for Campbelltown's koalas by installing koala protection measures like overpass crossings and fencing, and also creating a new National Park along the Georges River.

It's unacceptable that the State Government expects Campbelltown to absorb a massive quota of Sydney's exploding population and not assist the area in protecting native wildlife. The Greens are committed to working with National Parks Association of NSW and stakeholders to ensure the survival of Campbelltown's koalas including through the funding of safer wildlife crossings and barriers. "

C Liberals

Not one response came from any Liberal MLA or candidate!

POSITION STATEMENTS ON LONGWALL MINING IN DRINKING WATER CATCHMENTS

For many years NPA Branches have fought to protect the catchment areas from the deleterious effects of long-wall mining. These areas are home to very important upland swamps that feed into our water catchments and many have been lost due to cracking of the substrate. We held a forum to help inform the public and asked our candidates their policies.

You may be aware that an Expert Panel commissioned by the NSW Chief Scientist Office is currently examining the impacts of longwall mining on the drinking water catchment areas of Sydney. Part One of this study has identified that the mined areas at Dendrobium near Wollongong have demonstrated connectivity between the surface and former mine workings by rock cracking resulting in uncertain but probably very high volumes of water draining to former mine workings and thus being lost to dams servicing Wollongong and parts of Sydney. 24% of water for Sydney comes from the dams on the Woronora Plateau where due to the local orographic effects, rainfall is more reliable than in dam catchments further west.

The dropping levels of storage in our various catchments has triggered the restart of the Kurnell Desalination Plant whose operation will be partly paid for by increased levies on household water bills...this while the mining companies operate without any price on the water that is being lost as river beds crack and endangered upland swamps dry out...and these are the sponges that slowly release this precious water to the dams. It seems that the \$44 000 fine that the general public might pay for merely entering these ironically named "Special Areas" are more to stop the public making observation of such shameful damage! The fines the public might face cannot surely be for risks to our supposedly pristine water catchment when "big coal" seems to be given always assumed government approval for proceeding with mining known to damage the environment and cause water losses in their approved mega-leases.

A: Liberal

Eleni Petinos MP Miranda
Acknowledged receipt

Mark Speakman MP
Acknowledged receipt

Mark Coure MP Oatley
Advised that request for position statements was forwarded to Minister for Environment with request to "please review the attached correspondence from Mr Schoer and address the Association's concerns regarding longwall mining in drinking water catchments."

No further response had arrived in the time requested.

B: Labor

Anna Watson MP Shellharbour and Paul Scully MP Wollongong acknowledged receipt

Note that Labor will restore Streamwatch to ensure the health of waterways in Sydney, the Blue Mountains and the Illawarra continues to be monitored.

Note the speech from Penny Sharpe on Warragamba and the bill to raise the dam wall:

http://www.pennysharpe.com/speech_on_the_water_nsw_amendment_warragamba_dam_bill_2018

C: Greens

Bjorn Wallin, Policy Adviser to The Greens NSW provided a comprehensive party response.

Thank you for emailing our candidates regarding our position on longwall mining in drinking water catchments. I will respond on behalf of the party, but they might also respond to add a local or personal perspective.

Fresh water must be valued as an essential source of life and managed in an ecologically sustainable and socially just manner. The protection and conservation of water appears in many of our policies. We recognise that protecting water is not something that can be isolated from other aspects of the management of environment, services, farming and industry.

Our positions on such issues is guided by our policy, particularly our coal, CSG and water policies:

<https://greens.org.au/nsw/policies/coal-and-coal-seam-gas>

<https://greens.org.au/nsw/policies/water-rural-and-agricultural>

<https://greens.org.au/nsw/policies/water-urban>

The Greens favour the precautionary principle when dealing with such matters. We agree that relying on remediation after damage has occurred is not sufficient to protect water resources and the broader ecology of the area.

We consistently resist any expansion of coal and CSG mining. Such expansion will adversely affect the local water catchment and will undermine public health and safety.

However, the Greens also recognise that in the short term coking coal will remain a vital resource for steel manufacturing. Steel is important to the Illawarra community and a critical resource for renewable energy infrastructure.

The Greens support Illawarra steel making but not the sourcing of coking coal through destructive mining in Greater Sydney's Water Catchment.

For many years we have campaigned for increased funding and support for research that will accelerate the development of new techniques to lower the amount of coal used in steel production, ideally to zero. We also favour research and development to improve steel recycling technology to reduce the amount of new steel that needs to be manufactured.

A marine park containing sanctuaries for Greater Sydney's waters

For many years NPA has fought for marine sanctuaries across the Greater Sydney waters. Indeed we devoted an entire Branch newsletter (*Spring, 2018*) to this theme and I encourage you to go back and read that edition.

Remember that we wrote:

NPA believes that there should not just be marine protected areas but that there should be marine national parks. Reserves need to be chosen based on Comprehensiveness, Adequacy and Representativeness criteria on a Bioregion-wide basis. Threatened or uncommon species will only survive if sufficient samples of their habitat are conserved using these CAR criteria as a basis for selection.

Meanwhile the Government ran a sham public consultation and pulled the plug on that process before the consultation process had even finished.

Accordingly we asked the candidates on their positions.

A Greens

The following statement is courtesy of Oatley Flora and Fauna Society.

Gianluca Dragone, the Greens candidate for Oatley and Banks (Federal electorate) replied: "The NSW Greens believe marine parks are essential to maintaining aquatic biodiversity. I can endorse a marine park within Sydney with an emphasis on sanctuary zones."

From Mitchell Shakespeare, Greens Candidate Heathcote cc Jonathan Doig Greens Candidate Cronulla and Nathan Hunt Greens candidate Miranda:

One of the stated aims in Greens NSW policy is: Introducing legislated targets of a minimum of 30 per cent of each representative marine ecosystem and bioregion being fully protected in no-take sanctuary zones to ensure that a Comprehensive Adequate and Representative (CAR) regime can be effective across the state.

The full policy can be found here: <https://greens.org.au/nsw/policies/marine-environment>

B: Liberal

Lee Evans MP Heathcote acknowledged receipt of Email

Mark Coure MP Oatley and Mark Speakman MP Cronulla have been explicit supporters of a Sydney Marine Park in the past, but have not communicated their current position following a Government announcement in late 2018 that there would be no additional sanctuaries in Sydney's marine waters.

Mark Coure has interceded on Southern Sydney Branch of NPA's behalf to receive a comprehensive statement from Gabrielle Upton of the current Liberal Government's commitment to providing resources to address nine priority marine risk areas in NSW's waters under its NSW Marine Strategic Plan.

Oatley Flora and Fauna Society received this response from Mark Coure MP Oatley after writing to Gabrielle Upton:

Mark Coure forwarded our letter to Minister Upton and sent us the reply from her Chief of Staff, Kevin Wilde, without personally endorsing it: viz

“... the NSW Government is committed to protecting the NSW marine estate. In 2018 we released a 10-year Marine Estate Management Strategy and committed \$45.7 million to address the threats to our marine environment, including pollution and litter. We have also consulted on a new marine park in the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion and are considering the feedback received.”

Mark Speakman MP Cronulla acknowledged receipt of request and advice of time extension to comment.

C: Labor

Maryanne Stuart, Candidate for Heathcote advised that she has sent NPA's letter to the Shadow Minister for the Environment for further comment and feedback, particularly regarding the issues we raised in relation to sanctuaries and the Sydney Marine Park.

Teresa Farhart candidate for Cronulla acknowledged receipt of request.

Labor NSW has formally committed to a Marine Park for Sydney (Statements by Penny Sharpe, and advice to Oatley Flora and Fauna Society, and advice on Labor Fliers on Environmental Commitments. The location has variously been described as Sydney Harbour on this flier, but the clearest indication of intent describes a location between Pittwater and Port Hacking. No current information alludes explicitly to sanctuaries.

Oatley Flora and fauna Society received this statement from ALP candidate for Oatley, Lucy Mannering:

Lucy Mannering responded: "Labor has been committed to a single, iconic marine park for Sydney since 2014 and under a Labor Government a Sydney Marine Park will be established, not a series of disparate reserves tagged with the marine park label.

Labor's multi-use Sydney Marine Park would run from Port Hacking to Pittwater and including the harbour waters in between, and would be open to the public and cater for a range of sustainable activities including fishing, boating, dolphin and whale watching, swimming, snorkelling and kayaking."

The election is this coming Saturday. It is now over to you. We do not direct or preference any candidate but we do try to inform and as the NPA it is our duty first and foremost to consider the environment within which we all live

Brian Everingham, editor and Branch president.