

# Questions For Blue Mountains Candidates at the 2019 NSW State Election



The Blue Mountains Conservation Society is providing a set of questions to candidates from the major parties for the seat of Blue Mountains in the March 2019 State Election.

The answers to these questions will be published.

Most questions have both a “yes/no” answer and a request for more detail.

Please answer each question in the blue shaded box and limit your answers to 100 words.

We would like you to complete this MS Word document, save it as a pdf and email it back to us. [Word can save documents as a pdf.]

Please refer all queries to Alan Page – [webmaster@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:webmaster@bluemountains.org.au)

**Candidate's Name:**

**Trish Doyle**

**Candidate's Party:**

**Labor Candidate for Blue Mountains**

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# Q1. Protect Our World Heritage National Parks

## Q1.1 The National Parks and Wildlife Service Budget

Background: The Blue Mountains is a city surrounded by world heritage national parks so the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) plays an important role in our community and region. With increased tourism and climate change impacts we need, more than ever, an expert and well-resourced NPWS managing our world famous national parks.

The NPWS was once ranked among the top-five park-protection agencies in the world, but funding cuts and the loss of many experienced staff with decades of experience have harmed the organisation's prestige and hampered its effectiveness. Some key positions in the Blue Mountains remain unfilled.

The NSW Government must invest substantially to revive the capacity of the Service to ensure the precious natural landscapes it administers are properly protected and maintained. We support the NSW Nature Conservation Council's call for NPWS funding to be increased by at least \$150 million over three years. This will restore what has been lost over the last three years. This increased funding should be aimed at strengthening the Service's core function, that is, nature conservation.

Additional funding for the Blue Mountains region should focus on

- restoring adequate day-to-day management of the area;
- allowing NPWS to properly manage the biodiversity of the Blue Mountains National Park and the whole Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWhA);
- increasing feral and invasive species control and including working with council along the park boundaries; and
- creating a strong and well-resourced team of naturalists and wildlife researchers based in the GBMWhA area.

Question: Do you support increasing the National Parks and Wildlife Service budget by \$150 Million by 2022?

YES

If elected what steps will you take to achieve this?

**The Berejiklian Government has cut funding to the National Parks and Wildlife Service by over \$120mil. There has been a 26% drop in staff.**

**I will continue to argue and advocate for the restoration of additional funding for management of our GBMWhA.**

**My advocacy will continue to involve seeking funding commitments from both Ministers and Shadow Ministers; raising awareness of the reasoning behind the ne**

Answer:

**and request; and, supporting the allocation of resources to strengthen and enrich the NPWS. It must be returned to a protection agency and I will work hard with the Socialists to achieve that outcome.**

**Please see one of my many speeches in the NSW Parliament on staff and resource budgeting for the NPWS:**

**<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Hansard/Pages/HansardResult.aspx#/docid/HANSARD-1323879322-96551>**

**Labor is committed to rebuilding the NPWS. Labor will have more to say in the lead up to the election but there will be more money for the NPWS under Labor.**

## Q1.2 Threatened Species in the GBMWhA

Background: There are 423 fauna species in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area of which 69 are classified as threatened species. Of the 2,296 flora species, 95 are threatened.

See - [Fauna of the GBMWhA](#)

See - [Flora of the GBMWhA](#)

Question: In regard to threatened species in the GBMWhA, would you commit to the following goals?

- Ensure that biodiversity within the GBMWhA is maintained
- Ensure that no threatened species becomes extinct within the GBMWhA
- Ensure that no non-threatened species becomes threatened within the GBMWhA

If elected, what actions would you take?

Answer:

**I will work alongside BMCS, the Minister, NCC, Colong and other conservationists to secure protection measures for threatened species and biodiversity. At front of mind, in my political and community advocacy will be:**  
**Restoring bushland and forest; dealing with land-clearing problems; creating habitat for koalas; protecting ecosystems by dealing adequately with invasive species; refraining from selling off public land and ensuring principles of ecologically sustainable development are adhered to.**  
**The natural environment is of utmost importance to me on a personal and professional level. I also recognise the fundamental role it plays to the state of our health as people, for NSW, our cultural Indigenous heritage and our economy, our tourism sector and our future.**  
**Advocating for such measures will be part of my agenda if re-elected.**  
**Labor will ensure that there is a clear plan to support the retention and recovery of threatened species within GBMWhA, including dealing with invasive weeds and pests and species specific action.**  
**We will ensure that impact on threatened species are taken into account when managing activity within the park.**

### Q1.3 Inappropriate Development in our National Parks

Background: Tourism is increasing in the Blue Mountains and our national parks are part of the attraction for visitors. Echo Point is the second most visited location in NSW after the Sydney Opera House.

A 2017 proposal for 'chalets' in the national park at Govetts Leap was, thankfully, rejected. [Refer to the [Blue Mountains Destination Management Plan](#).] However, we need to remain vigilant especially when government agencies like the National Parks and Wildlife Service are under pressure to increase their revenue through tourism because of budget cuts.

More than ever our national parks need to be protected from development that is inappropriate.

Question: If elected will you work to ensure that inappropriate tourism development – such as large scale up-market accommodation – does not occur within our national parks?

YES

Explain how you will do this.

Answer:

**I will continue to argue against inappropriate tourism development which negatively impacts our National Parks. Especially critical is working with the environment protection and conservation movement to ensure measures are in place to analyse and question proposals that have adverse and negative effects on our parks.**

**Please be assured that I will always challenge the incompatibility of tourism and heritage conservation, where inappropriate development is concerned.**

**Impacts can be managed effectively if we aim for responsible tourism around conservation principles without commercialising and monetising every aspect of 'enjoyment' in our National Parks.**

## Q1.4 Horse Riding within Wilderness Areas

Background: Plans of Management for a number of national parks in the south of NSW are being amended to allow horse riding within declared wilderness areas.

Horse riding degrades wilderness areas and undermines the conservation objectives of these areas.

Question: If elected will you work to ensure these amendments are reversed?

YES

Additionally will you work to ensure that horse riding is never allowed in any declared wilderness areas in NSW?

YES

Explain how you will do this.

Answer:

**I spoke in vehement opposition to the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Bill 2018. Please see my speech on this important issue here:**  
[http://trishdoyle.nationbuilder.com/kosciuszko\\_wild\\_horse\\_heritage\\_bill](http://trishdoyle.nationbuilder.com/kosciuszko_wild_horse_heritage_bill)

**Labor has committed to repealing this Bill if elected to Government in 2019.**

## Q1.5 Raising Warragamba Dam

Background: A project is currently underway to raise Warragamba Dam by 14 metres. If this goes ahead large areas of world heritage national parks and wild rivers will be inundated. This flooding will seriously and permanently impact on the incredible biodiversity and many threatened species that contribute to the Blue Mountains National Park's world heritage listing. It will also destroy significant cultural heritage sites of the Gundungurra people, including artwork, camps and ceremonial sites.

See the [Save the Blue Mountains Wild Rivers Campaign](#)

Question: Do you support this project?

**NO**

If you don't support it, and if elected, what steps will you take to prevent this from happening?

Answer:

**Labor's position on the Warragamba Dam Wall raising has not changed since 1995 when the Carr Labor Government rejected the proposal.**

**Steps I have already taken to oppose this Warragamba Dam wall raising project and prevent this atrocity from happening, include:**

- \* successfully advocating within my own party and amongst colleagues to oppose the project**
- \* focusing instead, on highlighting the inappropriate developer grab on the nepean and Hawkesbury plains**
- \* raising awareness of the destructive elements of said proposal**
- \* working with the 'Give a Dam' campaign alongside our Indigenous peoples and our local Con Soc to protect our wild rivers, BMWHI and cultural heritage sites.**

**Further to these points, Labor will have more to say on the Warragamba dam wall closer to the election.**

## Q1.6 Western Sydney Airport – Not Needed or Wanted.

Background: Blue Mountains Conservation Society is firmly opposed to the construction of Western Sydney Airport.

Impacts on the World Heritage Area will be severe and unacceptable.

See our [Campaign Against Western Sydney Airport](#)

Question: Do you oppose Western Sydney Airport?

YES

If elected, what would you do to influence the abandonment of this project?

Answer:

**I will continue to raise awareness of the ill-effects of this project and encourage decision makers to hear alternative proposals for ‘jobs’ and ‘transportation’ that are sustainable and not environmentally disastrous; healthier, economically viable alternatives such as High Speed rail and real jobs for the west.**

**In the previous couple of years I have taken delegations of RAWSA and BMCS representatives to speak with the Opposition Leader and several of my Shadow Ministerial colleagues about my communitye either opposing or having serious concerns with the WSA/BCA proposal.**

**In 2015 I organised for my electorate to participate in feedback on the draft EIS, via provision of a template and forwarding 80% of the near 5000 submissions opposing or raising concerns about the proposed airport.**

**I have placed numerous Notices of Motion for debate on the floor of the Legislative Assembly in the NSW Parliament; made statements and heard/shared concerns from our community with Government, Opposition, FOWSA - informally, spoken at rallies and advocated clearly and consistently within my own Party Caucus room.**

**Please see an example of one of my speeches on this issue:**

**[https://www.trishdoylemp.com.au/badqerys\\_creek\\_airport](https://www.trishdoylemp.com.au/badqerys_creek_airport)**

## Q1.7 Western Sydney Airport – Flights Over Wilderness Areas.

Background: Wilderness areas are protected at the highest level in NSW, where nature can continue to evolve, and where humans can seek refuge from a noisy modern life. These places are sacrosanct. They must not be impacted by noisy aircraft.

In the USA, over-flight of the Grand Canyon wilderness is limited to flights above 13,000 feet so on-the-ground noise is minimised.

Question: Do you support not allowing flights below 13,000 feet above the ground over declared Wilderness Areas?

YES

If elected, what would you do to influence this?

Answer:

**My response and activity on a political level, regarding this issue, has been to argue and advocate for a better outcome on behalf of our community. This includes seeking protection for wilderness areas so that over-flight of our GBMWA is limited. I will work with my state colleagues and my federal counterpart to minimise on-the-ground noise by seeking to have NO flights below 13,000 feet above the declared Wilderness Areas**

## Q2. Expand Our National Parks

### Q2.1 Gardens of Stone

Background: Additions and expansions to the national park estate have stalled across NSW in recent years and need to be accelerated.

The spectacular Gardens of Stone landscape in the western plateau and escarpment of the Blue Mountains contains dramatic sandstone landforms, internationally significant rock pagodas, high cliffs, flowering peat swamps and a multitude of threatened plants and animals.

The Gardens of Stone Stage 2 area is the last unprotected part of the original 1930s Greater Blue Mountains conservation proposal.

See the Society's [Gardens of Stone Campaign webpage](#).

Question: Do you support the protection of the 39,000 hectare Gardens of Stone Stage 2 area as a state conservation area?

YES

If yes, and if elected, what steps will you take to achieve this?

Answer:

**I have been working with BMCS and the GoS Alliance to advance the protection of this spectacular environment. I have visited this precious area on a number of occasions over the last handful of years. Furthermore, I have been liaising with the Shadow Minister for Environment and advocating within the NSW Labor Parliamentary Party to secure Labor's commitment to the protection of the Gardens of Stone (Stage 2 proposal) as a state conservation area.  
Labor will have more to say on this issue closer to the election**

## Q2.2 Leave Radiata Plateau Wild

Background: Sitting on the southern escarpment, Radiata Plateau with its outstanding topography is the last remaining undeveloped peninsula-plateau in the upper Blue Mountains. Radiata Plateau is home to rare and threatened species, is culturally significant and a magnet for the local outdoor community.

See the Society's [Leave Radiata Plateau Wild campaign](#)

Question: Do you support the acquisition of Radiata Plateau and for it to be added to the Blue Mountains National Park?

YES

If yes, and if elected, what steps will you take to further this campaign?

Answer:

**For some years I have personally supported the campaigning efforts to secure the Radiata Plateau and add this last piece of the World Heritage Area to our BM National Parks estate. I will continue to argue the case for such important undeveloped escarpment land to be conserved and protected forever. I am aware that such a land acquisition would be treasured, particularly for significant Aboriginal heiriage – the traditional pathway into the Megalong Valley.**

**Labor will have more to say on this issue closer to the election.**

### Q2.3 Strategic Additions to the Blue Mountains National Park

Background: Besides the Gardens of Stone and Radiata Plateau (see Questions 2.1 & 2.2), there are areas of private or Crown land which would enhance and protect the Blue Mountains National Park and the GBMWA if added to the national park estate. The Society has identified the following strategic additions including:

- West Glenbrook (private land);
- Faulconbridge Mallee Ridge (private land);
- Kings Tableland, Wentworth Falls, Queen Victoria Hospital – excluding the heritage listed buildings (private land);
- Govetts Creek Catchment, Katoomba (Crown Land).

See Society's [Proposed Strategic Additions webpage](#)

Question: Do you support the acquisition of these strategic additions to the Blue Mountains National Park?

YES

If so, and if elected, what steps will you take to further this?

Answer:

**I support the acquisition of strategic parcels of land to our National park estate.  
Steps I will take to further this outcome include, as with other important issues, strong and relentless advocacy and representation.  
This will no doubt require joint collaboration with Governments, BMCS, private landowners and Crown Lands.**

### Q3. Appropriate Local Development

#### Q3.1 Residential Character Conservation Zone (R6)

Background: As part of the development of the Blue Mountains LEP 2015, Council proposed a new zone (the R6 Residential Character Conservation Zone) to protect the large-lot 'leafy green streets' character of residential areas adjoining the village centres.

This zone was designed to prevent subdivision and medium density housing developments despoiling those areas. But because R6 is not a 'standard' zone in the NSW planning regime, the Department and Minister for Planning delayed progress on its implementation and have since indicated that it will not go ahead.

Question: Do you support the immediate inclusion of the R6 Residential character conservation zone in the Blue Mountains LEP 2015?

YES

If elected what steps will you take to achieve this?

Answer:

**NSW Labor's shadow minister for Planning has recently committed to a comprehensive package of planning reforms.**

**I will work with my colleagues toward R6 being included as a unique zone in the Blue Mountains LEP 2015 NSW planning system.**

### Q3.2 Deforestation and Excessive Land Clearing

Background: NSW needs stronger laws that stop the destruction of important native bushland and wildlife habitat.

In particular, laws must be amended to -

- conserve and enhance biodiversity;
- protect remnant and high-conservation-value regrowth native vegetation from clearing across all sectors (agriculture, urban development, infrastructure and mining);
- ensure true environmental impacts are assessed in accordance with an objective scientific methodology, with clear thresholds for rejecting clearing applications;
- restrict code-based tree clearing;
- close loopholes that allow the clearing of trees in urban areas; and
- provide support for effective monitoring and reporting.

Deforestation causes the emission of a significant percentage of NSW's total greenhouse gas emissions. This role should also be recognised in legislation. See [Review of Native Vegetation Act by NSW Environmental Defenders Office](#)

In 2014 the [Rural Fires Act 1997](#) was amended to include the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Scheme. This allowed for the clearing of -

- a. any vegetation, including trees or parts of trees, within 10 metres
- b. any vegetation excepting trees or parts of trees, within 50 metres

without any requirement for assessment or approval.

Question: Do you support a review of the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Scheme specifically with a view of conserving native vegetation?

YES

Do you support an end to deforestation and excessive land clearing?

YES

If elected what steps will you take to achieve this?

Answer:

**In the past term of Parliament I have sought, via representations to the various Environment Ministers, a review of the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Scheme, particularly a close investigation of the destructive results of its application/interpretation. I will work with my colleagues, across the political spectrum and across a range of agencies, to achieve conservation of native vegetation and to halt excessive land clearing. Labor will have more to say about this before the election.**

### Q3.3 Control Invasive Species

Background: The Blue Mountains' natural values are being threatened by invasive species such as weeds and feral animals such as foxes.

Strong intervention is required to reduce the impact of new and widespread invasive species on the environment.

The NSW Government must prevent harmful new invaders –

- by phasing in a “safe list” approach;
- implementing an eradication program identifying and systematically targeting the highest priority eradicable species; and
- establishing an innovation fund for developing better methods for mitigating the environmental harm caused by the worst invasive species, including new methods for controlling feral deer.

Question: Do you support tackling invasive as described above?

**YES**

If elected what steps will you take to achieve this?

Answer:

**Labor will invest in national parks in order to deal with invasive species. We have committed to an eradication program. Michael Daley and Labor have declared war on weeds and pests in NSW, with an additional \$50 million in funding to help fight a devastating environmental and economic scourge that is ravaging vast areas of NSW. Labor also announced it would implement key recommendations of the Natural Resources Commission's Weeds review by establishing:**

- **An independent NSW Weeds Committee and Chair which would report to Parliament on Government agencies efforts to tackle weeds; and**

**A 'permitted list approach' to species management in NSW.**

### Q3.4 Medium Density Housing Code

Background: The Low Rise Medium Density Housing Code was introduced by the NSW Government in 2018. This code allows the building of medium density housing in residential zoned areas without council approval or input from neighbouring residents.

Many councils, including the Blue Mountains City Council, were granted a deferred commencement of the code until after the 2019 NSW state election. The Council and BMCS do not support the application of the code in the Blue Mountains and are seeking a permanent exemption.

Question: Do you support a permanent exemption from the Medium Density Housing Code for the Blue Mountains?

YES

If elected what steps will you take to achieve this?

Answer:

**Labor has committed to a comprehensive package of planning reforms.  
A Labor Government would scrap the Berejiklian Government's "Planned Precincts" policy which has allowed local communities and councils to be overridden. The Greater Sydney Commission will be directed to work to fix the problems caused by the mismanagement of the planning system.**

## Q4. Climate Change And Coal Mining

### Q4.1 Climate Change

Background: Climate change is real and its effects are evident in increased number of extreme weather events, an extended bushfire season, record high temperatures and the current almost unprecedented drying out of South Eastern Australia. Seven of the ten hottest years on record in Australia have happened since 2005.

An independent review of the state of Australia's environment, the Commonwealth's State of the Environment Report of 2017, concluded that climate change is one of the main pressures on the environment. The impacts of climate change are increasing and some of the changes could be irreversible.

Here in the Blue Mountains, the impacts of rapid climate change on biodiversity are happening now; they are not something that will happen in the future. For instance, a recent published study of the iconic Greater Gliders in Blue Mountains LGA concluded that their numbers have decreased significantly at lower elevations because of the increase in temperature that has already occurred in the area. The Blue Mountains, with its elevational and climatic range, is a good location to investigate such trends. What has happened to the Greater Glider is also likely to be happening to other animals and plants.

We know that people want government to take substantive actions to address climate change.

Question: Do you accept that anthropogenic\* climate change is real and severe?

YES

[\* anthropogenic - caused by humans or their activities.]

What steps will your party take towards addressing climate change?

**Most educated, compassionate people will agree that climate change is one of the main pressures on our environment, globally. The ALP has worked solidly, via its LEAN (Labor's Environment Action Network) agenda to work on policy that prioritises climate change action. This includes (but is not restricted to) a target of cutting pollution by 45% and delivering 50% renewable energy by 2030; and, it includes a commitment to a new Federal Environment Act that protects and preserves oceans, rivers, coasts and bushlands.**

**In December 2018, NSW Labor made adjustments to its shadow portfolio and acknowledged climate change as an issue the community is demanding all governments tackle. Taking action on**

Answer:

**climate change is critical to our future. Blue Mountains local, former Mayor and MLC Adam Searle is now Labor's Shadow Minister for Climate Change. I look forward to working alongside Adam, our community, the BMWHI, BMCS and our nation - to advance serious action on climate change.** Labor has recently announced measures to cut household power bills by up to \$1000 a year, due to new initiative to put solar on 500,000 households over the next decade. There is expected to be up to \$500 million savings each year in total when the roll out is completed. This package also cuts greenhouse gas emissions by almost 3 million tonnes each year - equivalent to taking a million cars off the road. **Further to this, I must say (as a parent and former teacher) how encouraged I am by climate action taken by thousands of students across Australia - demanding Governments do something. Students have clearly demonstrated they care about this critical issue and want us to act for their futures.**

## Q4.2 Coal Mining Exploration Licences and Mining Leases

Background: Open cut coal mining destroys the natural environment. Subsidence from underground mining can also destroy fragile ecosystems by draining swamps. The burning of coal contributes significantly to global warming and renewable sources of energy can replace coal.

Question: Do you support no more issuing of new coal exploration licences and coal mining leases?

YES

If elected what steps will you take to achieve this?

Answer:

**Personally, I am very aware that I need to work hard within any Parliament, regardless of who is in Government – including my own team - to achieve such an outcome relative to ending ‘new’ coal exploration licences. My voice is needed in the NSW Legislative Assembly and the Labor Party caucus room.**

**My focus will be on working across the political divide to legislate for a an emissions reduction target – moving toward a zero plan. We need to move the ‘talk’ of supporting the renewables sector to a practical ‘walk the talk’ level:**

**What do the jobs of the future, environmentally friendly jobs, look like?**

**How do we encourage communities and families, reliant on the old mining industry for their livelihoods, to walk the transition path to renewables?**

**Where do the collaborative conversations with the mining, the education, the trade union, the political and the environment movements, need to happen? And how?**

**Please see attached my recent speech on this issue, for your information:**

**[http://trishdoyle.nationbuilder.com/lithgow\\_jobs](http://trishdoyle.nationbuilder.com/lithgow_jobs)**

**Further to this, our Shadow Minister has stated:**

**An elected Labor Government will reinstate a neutral or beneficial effects test. To maintain public confidence, we believe that there should be no further regulatory approvals given for mining in water catchments until the Chief Scientists investigations are complete.**

### Q4.3 Phasing Out Fossil Fuels And Support Affected Communities

Background: On 8 October 2018 the UN released a landmark report that warns of significant global climate consequences unless carbon emissions are cut to zero by 2050. Yet, just hours after the release of this report, the NSW Planning Department released its report saying a new coal mine at Bylong, adjoining the north-western edge of the GBMWSHA, was “approvable”. (This proposal is still being assessed).

The next NSW government needs to

- Take concrete action to set binding targets to ensure our electricity comes from clean, reliable renewables by 100% in 2030;
- Legislating a binding target of net zero emissions by 2040 and a plan to how this will be met; and
- Undertake an orderly, funded transition for communities with coal-dependent local economies in NSW including the Lithgow area.

Question: Do you support these actions?

YES

What would you do to ensure your party take these actions, if elected?

Answer:

**See response to Q4.2**

**and**

**More than 13,000 jobs will be created under a Daley Labor government plan to guarantee pricing for enough renewable energy to provide clean and cheaper electricity for more than three million homes in the state in the next decade.**

**This is a move that signals to the market that NSW is serious about energy security and climate change.**

**Labor will deliver a total of 7 gigawatts of new, renewable energy – enough energy to power more than 3 million homes in the state (as many homes as NSW has today) – by 2030, ensuring NSW has secure, clean and affordable energy.**

**A Daley Labor government will deliver the guarantees through a series of competitive tenders and long term contracts – known as reverse auctions which drive the price of new-build renewable energy down and reduce the price of electricity.**

**This package includes the creation of a new State Owned Corporation to deliver a further 1 gigawatt of renewable energy generation and storage over the next decade.**

## Q4.4 Independent Planning Commission Members

Background: The Independent Planning Commission (IPC) -

- determines State significant development applications, such as new coal mines or their extension, where there is significant community opposition. (An example is the proposed new Bylong Mine).
- conducts public hearings for development applications.
- provides advice to the Minister on request.

While the NSW planning legislation says that panel members may have expertise in “the environment” amongst other areas, none of the 25 current commissioners are specialist terrestrial or aquatic ecologists.

Australia is facing major faunal extinction, as highlighted by the current Senate enquiry, and major projects often destroy animals' habitat. Considering this and the IPC's stated values to “build the community's confidence and trust in the Commission's independence”, the state government should ensure that IPC includes commissioners with ecology or biodiversity expertise.

Question: Do you support ensuring IPC panels include people with suitable environmental qualifications, in particular terrestrial or aquatic ecology, when assessing developments which impact on threatened species and communities?

YES

If elected what steps will you take to achieve this?

Answer:

**Regardless of the flavour of Governemnt elected, I will work with Ministers responsible for Planning and Environment, to have the appropriate people with relevant and suitable qualifications to sit on IPC panels.**  
**This should occur where developments impact threatened species and communities, vulnerable ecosystems, and our environment at large.**  
**Please note that Labor has committed to a review of the entire planning system.**

## Q5. Waste And Recycling

### Q5.1 Single-Use Plastic Bags and Products Containing Microbeads.

Background: Plastic and other consumer wastes are polluting the ocean and our waterways at an alarming rate and increasing our reliance on dirty landfills.

In Australia, an estimated 600 billion pieces of plastic infest our waters and kill marine life.

A ban on single-use plastic bags should apply to all wholesalers, importers and retailers (including all small businesses) who provide these products to their customers both in shops and online. The ban should include 'biodegradable and degradable' bags up to 70 microns.

Microbeads pose an environmental hazard when disposed of in wastewater.

Despite the voluntary industry program, there are loopholes that need to be closed through legislation. The use of microbeads should be banned in cosmetics, sunscreens, personal care products, laundry detergents, cleaning products and paint.

Question: Do you support a ban on single-use plastic bags?

YES

Do you support a ban on products containing microbeads.?

YES

If elected, what would you do to influence this?

Answer:

**I believe that we, as a society and community, and I as an elected representative, have a collective obligation to take sensible, necessary and reasonable steps to protect the environment for generations into the future.**

**Penny Sharpe, Shadow Minister for the Environment and NSW Labor's Deputy Leader, has introduced a bill into the NSW Parliament, to ban the use of single-use, lightweight polyurethane bags.**

**If Labor is elected, the single-use plastic bags will be banned. If not, I will continue pursuing action on this matter.**

**I have spoken on many notices of motion and petition debates, around this issue, over my first term of government. I have tabled petitions on behalf of a number of concerned residents, including that collected by the Kindlehill school children and have also actively participated in local campaigns such as promoting and using 'Boomerang Bags'.**