

Questions For Candidates

Macquarie Electorate

2013 Federal Election



The Blue Mountains Conservation Society is providing a set of questions to candidates in the Macquarie Electorate in the 2013 Federal Election. The answers to these questions will be published.

Instructions: The areas for response are shaded green.

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

All email correspondence and queries should be sent to Alan Page at webmaster@bluemountains.org.au

Candidate's Name:	Tony Piper CDP Macquarie
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The Questionnaire

Q1. Under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act the Commonwealth has various environmental protection powers.

Do you support maintaining the Commonwealth's role in environmental protection?

Given that the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) is the Australian Government's central piece of environmental legislation, providing a legal framework to protect and manage important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places, I unequivocally support the maintaining of these protection powers. The Christian Democratic Party holds that Creation is an eloquent expression of God's glory and wise stewardship of our environment is incumbent on all mankind.

- Q2. Do you support the Commonwealth having a role in the new Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan (through requiring a "strategic assessment" of the impacts of the new plan on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and Commonwealth listed flora, fauna and endangered ecological communities)?**

Christian Democrats hold that creation must be respected and stewarded by the people who inhabit it.
The Commonwealth "strategic assessment" requirement could only be supported if it empowers a proper stewardship & custodial function of these areas.

- Q3. In your opinion, how bad is human induced climate change?**

The Christian Democratic Party accepts that the scientific debate around climate change is not settled, and in that sense the CDP remains agnostic in respect to the scientific modelling, assumptions & interpretation of the climate change debate.

- Q4. What three initiatives would you actively support to improve the environment and conserve biodiversity in the electorate of Macquarie?**

The Christian Democratic Party encourages the development of economic alternatives to fossil fuels and cleaner coal mining technologies and would actively support initiatives facilitating this end.

The CDP supports a forestry policy that balances sustainable environmental practices with the interests and long term viability of rural and regional forestry communities.

An immediate moratorium on the development of any further CSG leases pending full environmental, economic & health reviews of local communities. In addition, ensuring a quarantine zone is in place that mandatorily prohibit CSG leases being given within range of any residential areas, sensitive eco systems, food production areas, aquifers and listed parklands.