

BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Environmental Questionnaire to Macquarie candidates for 2016 Federal Election

Question 1: Many people in this electorate believe the proposed Western Sydney Airport will damage the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and negatively impact on both the natural environment and the quality of life.

- a) Do you openly oppose this project?
- b) Do your party's policies openly oppose this project?
- c) How do/will you reconcile any difference between your personal views and the policies of your party?

Question 2: Many people in this electorate believe the proposed Western Sydney Airport will generate unacceptable levels of pollution that will affect millions of people in Western Sydney and in the Blue Mountains.

- a) Do you think the airport is justified in view of this potential/probable pollution?
- b) Can you explain how you justify this?

Question 3: Many people in this electorate provided feedback as part of the EIS process for the proposed airport.

- a) Do you believe this feedback has been adequately addressed and responded to?
- b) If the airport proceeds, do you and your party support the application of strict environmental controls over its operation and what would these entail?
- c) How do/will you reconcile any difference between your personal views on these controls and the policies of your party?

Question 4: Will you urge your party to halt the development of Western Sydney Airport while surface transport options are pursued?

Question 5: Do you personally support the Federal Government retaining all of its existing environmental powers over the Greater Blue Mountains accorded through World Heritage status or otherwise?

Question 6: What arguments would you offer against anyone in your party who favoured transferring any existing Federal power over the Blue Mountains environment to another level of government?

Question 7: What steps would you take to strengthen the Australian Government's role in protecting World Heritage Areas from adverse effects of mining?

Question 8: Will you seek a specific time table for the phase out of coal mining in the Blue Mountains?

Question 9: What actions can be initiated immediately to make Western Blue Mountains communities less focused on coal mining for employment?

Question 10: What would you do to persuade your party to phase out fossil fuel subsidies?

Question 11: The Greater Blue Mountains was granted World Heritage for its biodiversity, in particular diversity of Eucalypt species. What steps would you take to progress the listing of additional criteria for the World Heritage status of the Greater Blue Mountains, including cultural and historic values, geodiversity and scenic splendour?

(The criteria are set out in online book, published by the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Advisory Committee: "Values for a new generation – Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area" - <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/protectedareas/values-new-generation.htm>)

Question 12: Many people in this electorate, as elsewhere in Australia, are aware of the growing evidence of increasingly rapid climate change throughout the World and the need for all countries, individually and collectively to respond to this.

- a) Do you support increased (rather than decreased) funding to institutions like the CSIRO and for empirical research in Australia's universities?
- b) What are the policies of your party on this issue?
- c) How do/will you reconcile any difference between your personal views on this matter and the policies of your party?

Question 13: How would you ensure that all environmental organisations would have ongoing tax deductibility status for receiving private donations?

13 May 2016.