

PROTECTION OF NARRABEEN LAGOON CATCHMENT

Kylie Ferguson – Liberal – Pittwater

1. Do you think that the protection of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment is a high priority for the region? How valuable is biodiversity in this area?

It is definitely a high priority. We need to preserve the Catchment, keeping an eye on pollution and ensure all flora and fauna species, are looked after. Also need to ensure wildlife corridors are kept free and open. We need to look at scientific and other information relating to the past and present condition of the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment to ensure its protection into the future.

Valuable indeed. What with the wide range of threatened species present. These need to be monitored and protected.

2. What measures can you as a Councillor take to ensure that the remaining bushland in the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment is protected from urban development?

I would ensure this is kept in line of sight of the Council. All development is monitored and all care is taken to ensure no contaminants are to enter the lagoon.

3. In the last three years the Narrabeen Lagoon and some of the adjoining lands have been made a 'State Park' where Council is represented on the Management Committee. What would you do to expand the State Park and what would you do to ensure the State Park is managed with an adopted plan?

Consult and work with relevant authorities on all matters. With the eventual widening of Mona Vale Road and Wakehurst Parkway, we could do some biobanking and purchase sensitive land around the lagoon, if we can't buy onsite of the road construction.

4. Do you think environmental protection should be retained as a key land use objective for non-urban land in Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment?' Friends have supported the E2 (environment protection)

zone e.g. for core bushland, rather than the E3 (environmental management) zone. In bushland areas where no development should occur, the E2 zone is preferable to the standard zone translation of E3.

I would follow the lead of the experts that knowingly love and know the lagoon, to seek the higher E2 zone.

5. What do you think your Council could do to provide incentives for landowners to conserve natural bushland on their properties?

Every home gardener in Hornsby Shire has an important role in protecting our local biodiversity, particularly our native flora and fauna.

<http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/environment/trees-plants-and-bushland/gardening-with-natives>

6. In what ways would you as a Councillor influence your council to arrange funding for bush regeneration in the catchment of Narrabeen Lagoon?

Grant funding is often available from different levels of government ie State and Federal, so making sure we have staff keeping on top of applying.

7. There are a number of worthy volunteer community organizations like Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment that desire the support of Council. How would you propose Council work more effectively with Friends and other community groups?

I think Councillors from Pittwater Council could attend meetings and I think this some staff at the new Northern Beaches Council, should be across certain groups as well. I think having representation of Councillors helps us know issues that are happening in this larger area.

I also believe we need to communicate more with other environmental protection organisations.

Seek funding for rehabilitation and regeneration.

8. Illegal land clearing is a problem in the Northern Beaches – what actions would you pursue as a Councillor to provide more adequate penalties for offenders and more authority and resources to Council staff to prevent illegal land clearing and enforce compliance with laws, plans and conditions of consent?

I am quite passionate about flora and fauna, being a member of Katandra Bushland Sanctuary. I would like council to be proactive in helping protect the bushland and lagoon. Ensuring the correct protections are in place to make sure nothing is damaged in the build.

I think we could raise public awareness of the need to keep the lagoon and the surrounding bushland as pristine as possible.

Any illegal clearing should be dealt with as severely as possible. EG fines.