

PROTECTION OF NARRABEEN LAGOON CATCHMENT

Name/s	Ward	Party/Group
Penny Philpott	Frenchs Forest	Your Northern Beaches Independent Team

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?

I most certainly agree it's priority not only for Council, but for State environmental protection. The lagoon catchment area is unique and contains rare and precious flora and fauna. It is also extremely important that its biodiversity is preserved, protected and controlled as environmentally unique.

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?

The development of the walkway around the lake has contributed greatly to the awareness of the lake and the biodiversity of the catchment area. However, further work with community groups and the wider Northern Beaches population as to this unique and valuable area is vital.

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?

Collaboration with the community and council staff is essential. It is essential that there's an appropriate and effective Land Management and Protection Plan developed through collaboration from all parties.

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.

The area should most certainly be protected from further major development. But I believe that with careful management, respect, collaboration and cooperation from Council, residents and interested groups, the environment can be protected and retained while open for respectful recreational use.

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

Education, education, awareness, education, and more awareness.

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

By Council employees working closely with residents and protection groups while providing adequate funds for awareness and education of residents and volunteer groups working to protect and maintain the environment.

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?

Through consultation, cooperation and collaboration and providing adequate funding so local groups can work and engage residents to maintain and protect the areas in which they live.

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 strongly believe Council staff should undergo training in PR and in the most cooperative and collaborative way they can work with the community. They have to be strongly encouraged to be passionate about our unique environment and act promptly on residents' complaints. I've heard of many instances when a resident has brought illegal clearing to the notice of the Council, it is overlooked, brushed off or paid lip service till it is too late and the damage done. Unacceptable.