

PROTECTION OF NARRABEEN LAGOON CATCHMENT

Name/s	Ward	Party/Group
Rory Amon	Narrabeen	Liberal

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?

From North Head, to Barrenjoey Lighthouse to Garigal National Park, we call the most beautiful part of Sydney home. Let's keep it this way.

The Narrabeen Lagoon State Park ("Park") is the jewel in our environmental crown. The Park has much to offer as a recreational, tourist, and environment hub. The new Council must prioritise preparing a master plan for the Park. The biodiversity is invaluable.

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?

A masterplan for the Park must be prepared. This masterplan will take into account urban development which is acceptable and not acceptable to the protection of the Park.

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?

Council must work with all stakeholders to consolidate all relevant land to form part of the Park. Council needs to prepare and adopt a master plan.

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.

As a general principle, I would support E2 zoning in non-residential lands in the catchment area. Where there are existing residents and their dwellings in the catchment area, I would not support their land being zoned E2 or E3. Zonings for existing residents should be equivalent to the zonings they had before the WLEP2011. I support land containing solely virgin bushland being zoned E2 or E3, as appropriate.

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

If there is proven to be natural and/or economic benefit to the conservation, Council could consider rates rebates. However, the numbers would need to stack up. If I am elected as a Councillor, I will be open to advice on this issue.

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

If an appropriate masterplan can be adopted and an independent board/trust appointed, I would like to see that board/trust be allocated Council funds to manage the Park. This would lead to great efficiencies and more funding available for the bush regeneration.

6. 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?

The involvement of Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon in the development of a masterplan for the Park, as well as continued opportunities to participate on a Park advisory board/trust would be a great way to engage with the Friends and other group.

7. 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?

To the extent Council can increase fines, it should. This should act as a future deterrent. Ultimately, if residents are intent on doing the wrong thing then they will. However, there should be strong consequences.