Newsletter Reader Survey

Questions for politicians

To provide our GSLN members across Greater Sydney with relevant information leading up to the State elections, we are asking readers and members to consider and respond to the following questions. Questions are **framed in the same way they would be asked of politicians;** perhaps there are slight changes to the question, direction or elaboration you would like to see, or you might even have a few questions to propose yourself. Please forward feedback to LLC Clare at [clare.vernon@greatersydneylandcare.org](mailto:clare.vernon@greatersydneylandcare.org). All suggestions to the questions below are welcome, and whilst the final questions will be at the discretion of the committee, all feedback will be taken into consideration. As a thank you, members will go into the draw to win a copy of the ***Popes Glen* *Bushcare Group Story***, published by GSLN, a **Landcare-branded stainless-steel water bottle** and **one (1) years individual membership valued at $20**.

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| Question to politician | Your Feedback |
| How do you propose we should improve biodiversity conservation across the State? |  |
| How do you propose to support landcare and bushcare across Greater Sydney’s urban, peri-urban and rural areas? |  |
| What action will you take to prevent the sale of Crown Lands now that it has been passed to Local Government to manage?   *(Click* [*here*](https://greatersydneylandcare.org/crown-lands-act-summary-of-issues-suggested-actions-and-background-from-the-2018-agm/) *to read more about changes to the Crown Lands Act).* |  |
| Greater Sydney needs more green space, without the overuse of existing green space. How do you propose to expand the green/blue network across Greater Sydney without impacting on existing green spaces?   *(Click* [*here*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_infrastructure) *to learn about the blue-green infrastructure concept).* |  |
| How will a green network be provided for the Cumberland Plain with the massive amounts of development planed?   *(Click* [*here*](https://greatersydneylandcare.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/GSLN-CCN-State-of-the-Cumberland-2018-GSLN.pdf) *to read more about the Cumberland Plain and the threats of development on this critically threatened Western Sydney biome).* |  |
| Will you (a). propose legislation targeted at reducing single use plastics entering our waterways; (b). how will you use and provide [Gross Pollutant Traps](http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/environment/waste-management/waste-and-recycling/waste-information/gross-pollutant-trap-gpt-reports), and (c). at which level will government take on the task of installing, clearing and maintaining these traps, to reduce volunteer hours needed to collect litter from waterways? |  |
| The future of [Streamwatch](https://www.streamwatch.org.au/) beyond June 2019 is not secured. Given the nearly 30 years of water quality data the program has collected and the engagement the program brings to Sydney’s local waterways: how will you support Streamwatch to ensure ongoing independent water quality testing by a connected community? |  |
| What is your policy on the critically threatened conservation of Cumberland Plains woodland, given the [identified](https://greatersydneylandcare.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/GSLN-CCN-State-of-the-Cumberland-2018-GSLN.pdf) key threatening processes of land clearing, development and urban expansion? |  |
| What is your position on the current biodiversity offsets process, and how do you propose to strengthen protections for both individual species and threatened ecosystems? |  |
| What is your position on the sale of crown land (not just via the transfer of land to councils)? Can you explain the implications for Landcare volunteers who volunteer on public land? |  |
| Proposed changes to biosecurity laws by the NSW state government changed the way agencies plan, receive funding for and undertake actions on priority weed species in the various Local Land Services regions. However, these changes did not happen, aside from limited planning on NPWS and State Rail land. Local weed authorities have the power but lack the confidence to act on weedy species because of the potential repercussions. Will the State government start funding pest species control? How will funding for pest species management on public land be provided, and will a tenure neutral approach be used?   *NB. A tenure neutral approach is a program that manages pest species on both public and private land, at the same time.* |  |
| It is becoming more difficult to for Landcare volunteers to volunteer with NPWS due to financial constraints placed upon, and decreased availability of staff, who manage National Parks volunteers. Will you address the funding and staffing shortages for NPWS coordinators, and how will you support bushcare and landcare volunteers operating on National Parks land? |  |
| The current funding requirements demands that NPWS burn large areas of National Parks, using quick hot hazard reduction burns. As a result, the density of bushland is increasing across Greater Sydney, increasing fuel load and the potential for catastrophic and intense wildfires. What is your policy on the use of cultural fire (cool burns) and allowing NPWS staff to manage bushland in conjunction with the RFS, without NPWS funding being dependant on the number of hectares burnt?  *(Professor David Bowman (UTas) has written an excellent article on the merits of cool burns and Indigenous fire management methods* [*here*](https://theconversation.com/aboriginal-fire-management-part-of-the-solution-to-destructive-bushfires-55032)*).* |  |
| Local Land Services helps to provide a healthy Sydney catchment, enabling the people of Greater Sydney to enjoy waterways and bushland for recreation. During this time of unprecedented population growth, funding for natural resource management has been removed. What is your policy on future funding for Local Land Services in Greater Sydney? |  |
| What is your policy about allowing urban development on floodplains (e.g. Hawkesbury Nepean) and exposing the future state government to class actions as it currently the case in South East Queensland? |  |
| Will you support the [Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative](https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/local-landcare-coordinator-initiative/) across NSW into the future? If so, how? |  |
| *Do you have any other suggestions for questions we should ask politicians and politicial parties? Please include them on the following page.* |  |
| *Proposed question 1.* |  |
| *Proposed question 2.* |  |
| *Proposed question 3.* |  |

As a sincere thank you for taking the time to provide valuable feedback, all participants will go in the draw to **win a copy of the *Popes Glen* *Bushcare Group Story***, published by GSLN, a **Landcare-branded stainless steel water bottle** and **one (1) years individual membership valued at $20**.