



# Researched policy responses

Question to politician	Your Feedback
<p>Will you support the <a href="#">Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative</a> full time and expand the valuable work of our coordinators? If you are not committing to the \$32.5 million required to fund this scheme (which brings more than \$500 million annually in benefits), why not?</p>	<p>The Liberal Party has committed \$22.4m to the Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative for the next four years. You can read the media release <a href="#">here</a>. This means that 11 regional coordinators, 60 part time (0.5 FTE) local coordinators and Indigenous Landcare coordinators can be employed.</p>
<p>How do you propose we should improve biodiversity conservation across the State?</p>	<p>The Liberal campaign website only states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A koala national park will be created in the Southern Highlands, and</li> <li>- A \$45m 'koala strategy' together with 24,000ha of koala reserves will be delivered.</li> <li>- \$150m invested in National Parks, including improving accessibility in 1,000 parks and upgrading 200 of the most popular tracks (website points in particular to the Blue Mountains National Park, Malabar Head Walking Track Randwick), and</li> <li>- Online resources such as wildlife cameras, virtual tours and digital tools.</li> </ul> <p>(Source <a href="#">here</a> and <a href="#">here</a>).</p>
<p>How do you propose to support landcare and bushcare across Greater Sydney's urban, peri-urban and rural areas?</p>	<p>No statements were available on the Liberal Party of NSW campaign website.</p>
<p>What action will you take to prevent the sale of Crown Lands now that it has been passed to Local Government to manage?</p> <p><i>(Click <a href="#">here</a> to read more about changes to the Crown Lands Act).</i></p>	<p>No statements were available on their campaign website, however from the <a href="#">NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet</a>:</p> <p>The NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals will also provide additional protections for Crown Land held for recreational use.</p> <p>Legislation will be further strengthened to ensure Crown Land reserved for recreational purposes cannot be sold, leased or change purpose without approval by the Minister that any change is in the public interest. This is on top of changes introduced last year that have delivered the community more power than ever before over the use of Crown land held for public recreation.</p>
<p>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?</p> <p><i>(Click <a href="#">here</a> to learn about the blue-green infrastructure concept).</i></p>	<p>No statements are made about blue-green infrastructure. On the topic of green space and expansion:</p> <p>A further \$100 million is available to secure new parks to be developed across Sydney. This funding will be used to purchase open space in strategic locations, to improve community access to green space.</p> <p>Today's announcement takes the funding of the NSW Government's existing Open Spaces and Greener Sydney</p>

	<p>package to \$340 million, which already delivered more new and upgraded playgrounds, local sporting facility upgrades and more access to school grounds for community use.</p> <p>Source: <a href="#">NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet</a>.</p>
<p>What is your policy on the critically threatened conservation of Cumberland Plains woodland, given the <a href="#">identified</a> key threatening processes of land clearing, development and urban expansion?</p> <p><i>(Click <a href="#">here</a> to read more about the Cumberland Plain and the threats of development on this critically threatened Western Sydney biome).</i></p>	<p>No statements were available on the Liberal Party of NSW campaign website.</p>
<p>Will you (a). propose legislation targeted at reducing single use plastics entering our waterways; (b). how will you use and provide <a href="#">Gross Pollutant Traps</a>, 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?</p>	<p>Statements about plastic bag and marine debris control were only available on the Federal-level Liberal Party website. No statements were available on the Liberal Party of NSW campaign website.</p>
<p>The future of <a href="#">Streamwatch</a> 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 <b>Sydney's local waterways</b>: how will you support Streamwatch to ensure ongoing independent water quality testing by a connected community?</p>	<p>No statements were available on the Liberal Party of NSW campaign website.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Statements about threatened species were only available on Federal-level Liberal Party website. No statements were available on the Liberal Party of NSW campaign website.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>From above:</p> <p>No statements were available on their campaign website, however from the <a href="#">NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet</a>:</p> <p>The NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals will also provide additional protections for Crown Land held for recreational use.</p> <p>Legislation will be further strengthened to ensure Crown Land reserved for recreational purposes cannot be sold, leased or change purpose without approval by the Minister that any change is in the public interest. This is on top of changes introduced last year that have delivered the community more power than ever before over the use of Crown land held for public recreation.</p>
<p>Local weed authorities have the power but lack the confidence to act on weedy species because of the potential repercussions. How will you 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?</p> <p><i>NB. A tenure neutral approach is a program that manages pest species on both public and private land, at the same time. Proposed changes to biosecurity laws by the NSW state</i></p>	<p>No statements were available on the Liberal Party of NSW campaign website.</p>

<p><i>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.</i></p>	
<p><b>Volunteering with NPWS is falling due to financial and HR constraints on NPWS staff. How will you address the funding and staffing shortages for NPWS coordinators? How will you provide additional support for volunteers operating in National Parks, given the critical work of volunteers in weed management and the current absence of any financial resources to control weeds available to NPWS.</b></p>	<p>No statements were available on the Liberal Party of NSW campaign website.</p>
<p><b>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?</b></p>	<p>No statements were available on the Liberal Party of NSW campaign website.</p>
<p><b>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?</b></p>	<p>No statements were available on the Liberal Party of NSW campaign website.</p>
<p><b>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?</b></p>	<p>No statements were available on the Liberal Party of NSW campaign website. The only information we could find was in regard to population reviews conducted in October 2018 (<a href="#">here</a>).</p>