



Better Planning Network <bpn@betterplanningnetwork.org.au>

RE: 2023 NSW election - Questions for Candidates on Planning Policies

1 message

Sustainable Australia Party HQ <hq@sustainableaustralia.org.au>

18 March 2023 at 18:15

To: "bpn@betterplanningnetwork.org.au" <bpn@betterplanningnetwork.org.au>

Dear Better Planning Network

Thank you for your email.

Sustainable Australia Party is an independent community movement with a science and evidence-based policy platform. We are fighting to protect our environment, stop overdevelopment and stop corruption.

With reference to your specific questions, we have provided responses below:

1. Do you believe the current NSW land use planning system strikes the correct balance between the voice of property developers and local communities?

Please discuss why.

No. We believe the NSW planning system puts property developers ahead of local communities. We support returning real planning powers to local communities through local Councils and proper engagement.

2. Do you believe State Planning Policies grant excessive decision-making discretion to the Minister for Planning?

Can you provide any examples which illustrate your view?

Yes. The Minister has too much power to determine key decisions including 'State-significant projects', which should allow more community input.

3. Do you regard it as a priority for the next NSW Government to address climate impacts of developments more comprehensively under the planning system?

If yes, please detail what policies you have adopted and what initiatives you will pursue if elected.

Yes. Planning systems should mitigate and adapt to climate change. For example, we should ensure that new and existing homes and associated landscapes adapt to the latest innovations in thermal and water efficiency and ecological design, including north facing, effective insulation, solar panels and water tanks.

4. Do you think the concept of "State significance" in NSW planning is applied correctly?

Can you provide any examples which illustrate your view?

No. Far too often, the interests of property developers and the construction industry override environmental and community considerations.

5. Do you think the NSW Independent Planning Commission is sufficiently independent of the Government?

Please give examples.

No. Given that the panel is government-appointed, it has difficult in acting independently.

6. In your opinion does environmental impact assessment of planning developments in NSW meet community expectations in relation to the following?

- | | |
|--|----|
| - Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage? | NO |
| - Protecting post-European cultural heritage? | NO |
| - Preventing irreversible harm to natural environment? | NO |
| - Taking into consideration flood risk? | NO |
| - Protecting tree canopies in urban and regional contexts? | NO |
| - Preventing sterilisation of peri-urban food bowl? | NO |
| - Ensuring quality housing? | NO |

7. Should a responsible NSW climate response include the issuing of further coal and gas exploration licences?

Please detail what policies you would support and which initiatives you will pursue if elected.

No. Sustainable Australia Party supports strong action on climate change including a moratorium on all new coal mines in Australia and a moratorium on all new fracking, including for coal seam gas.

8. The 2022 auditor general's review of the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme concluded the scheme failed to protect NSW environment. Will you support an overhaul of the scheme, so that Positive Conservation Outcomes are assured?

Yes. We should enshrine into Australian law the fundamental human right of a healthy natural environment for its citizens and prioritise this in all policy and development decisions.

9. Is it time for a root and branch review of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act?

If yes, what do you think the scope of such changes should be, and who should be responsible for this review (e.g. NSW Productivity Commission)? If no, please explain why not?

Yes. The NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act should achieve a transparent, democratic, corruption-free and environmentally sustainable town and urban planning system that will properly protect our ecosystems, built heritage, backyards and urban amenity. We would propose a collection of community-appointed experts from local environment groups across NSW to drive this review.

10. Many properties, particularly foreign investment properties, are reported to remain vacant. Do you support a government audit and introduction of financial disincentives for residential property owners who leave their property vacant for more than six months in order to encourage delivery of more housing to the rental market?

If yes, do you have specific suggestions?

Yes. Sustainable Australia Party supports a 10% annual vacancy tax (on property's full capital improved value) on foreign owned property. See housing policy here: <https://www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/housing>

11. Current NSW affordable housing policy includes bonus development as an incentive for developers to deliver some affordable housing but the housing only remains affordable for 15 years. Is this in your opinion a sustainable solution to the affordable housing crisis?

What is your policy on affordable housing?

No. While Sustainable Australia Party supports a minimum 10% public or affordable social housing is integrated into new significant residential developments through a process of inclusionary zoning, This should not be based on "bonus development". To sustainably solve the housing affordability crisis, we need to address the government-engineered hyper-demand. This will mean phasing out negative gearing and tax concessions for property investors, banning foreign ownership and stabilising Australia's population size.

You can find our key policies on our website under 'Planning & Development', 'Environment' and 'Animals & Biodiversity' here:

<https://www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/policies>

Kind regards

William

Cr William Bourke

Councillor - North Sydney Council

Lead candidate – NSW Legislative Council
President - Sustainable Australia Party

www.sustainableaustralia.org.au



Volunteer for the March 2023 NSW election [here](#).

From: Better Planning Network <bpn@betterplanningnetwork.org.au>

Sent: Monday, 13 March 2023 3:51 PM

Subject: Questions for Candidates on Planning Policies

bpn@betterplanningnetwork.org.au

#NSWVotes2023 promises to be an unprecedented State election, with large numbers of independent candidates and smaller parties standing. This poses a challenge to voters who we think need to know candidate policies on planning and environmental issues that concern many communities.

Better Planning Network has prepared a short questionnaire for parties and candidates which covers some of the election policy priorities our members think are important in achieving an orderly and sustainable planning system for NSW.

Our member groups may be sending the questionnaire to individual candidates, but BPN itself would like to hear from the parties and groups that are contesting the election. We will be publicising responses we receive in advance of the election. We will also publicise those parties which fail to respond.

Please review our attached #NSWVotes2023 Planning Policies Questionnaire and let us have your responses, by email to bpn@betterplanningnetwork.org.au as soon as possible but by 20 March at the latest.

Your answers will be very helpful in informing BPN's members and followers about your planning policies.

Thank you.

Acting Secretary

Better Planning Network



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