

## Election 2019 Questions for Candidates

1. Will you commit to making Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) the overarching object of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act?

**YES** NO

2. Will you ensure that in meeting the Act's Objects, environmental and social considerations are given at least as much weight as economic:

(a) in all decision making processes under the planning system, and

**YES** NO

(b) in all business cases for development of public land.

**YES** NO

### Comments

Ecologically sustainable development must be at the forefront of the planning system. Its four principles: the precautionary principle, intergenerational equity, conservation of biological diversity and valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms, are vital to preventing environmental destruction and social impacts from development. I strongly defended the proposed downgrade of ecological sustainable development to 'sustainable development' in previous proposed rewrites of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Public land redevelopment projects must also produce community benefits including new social and affordable housing, open space, childcare and education, and active and public transport.

3. Will you reform NSW Planning law to ensure that third parties, including community groups have merit appeal rights equal to those of proponents?

**YES** NO

### Comments

Third party appeals must be permitted at all stages of the development process to ensure the planning system is transparent and accountable and to protect the natural environment and neighbourhood. Third party appeals can improve the planning system by testing and challenging legal interpretations by consent authorities.



4. Will you commit to genuine community participation by providing:

(a) Equal public access to the same documents, studies and reports, to all parties at every stage of the planning and development processes?

**YES** NO

(b) Ensuring that equal standing is given to community views, subject to stated public interest reasons for not doing so?

**YES** NO

**Comments**

A good planning system provides full transparency to the community. The wider public must be involved in a more meaningful way than just being permitted to make submissions during an exhibition period. The public should be informed about all proposals early on with access to all documents and studies conducted for a proposal.

5. In pursuit of a transparent, corruption-free planning system, will you implement the recommendations of the ICAC in its reports on Lobbying and Anti-Corruption Safeguards recommendations?

**YES** NO

**Comments**

I have a strong record of advocating for transparency and accountability in the planning system and I will call for the implementation of all recommendations and safeguards by the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

6. Do you agree that the NSW Planning system should be reformed to implement the “Planning for People Community Charter” developed by community groups in partnership with the Better Planning Network?

**YES** NO

**Comments**

The Planning for People Community Charter provides the best way forward to ensuring the Department of Planning and Environment’s Community Participation Plan engages the community to ensure the neighbourhoods of the future are healthy and places where people want to live, and that we protect our natural environment and water and food sources.

7. Would you support a Royal Commission into the building and development industry that covers a broad range of issues including approvals and modifications to approvals, construction standards and certification?

**YES** NO

**Comments**

I have already called for a special commission of inquiry into building to address the serious problem of defects and I will continue to push for this if I am re-elected.