

Voices of Warringah Candidate Responses

Zali Steggall (Independent) response to Voices of Warringah email, Steggall's responses are in Green:

Accountability

- If elected, will you sign the Parliamentary Transparency Charter introduced by Senator Tim Storer on 3 April 2019? YES
- Will you support a federal ICAC with full inquisitorial powers and appropriate funding? YES
- Will you commit to organising at least two public forums open to all residents of Warringah each year to report on Federal matters, and seek local views? YES

Climate

- Will you commit to implementing a national integrated energy and climate policy framework for 2030 based on a low-emission development strategy for 2050, in line with the Paris Agreement? YES
- Will you push to bring energy taxes in line with the environmental impacts of fuel use; will you tax fuels that are currently exempt and increase tax rates that are too low? YES
- Will you push for the development of incentives and regulation to move freight transport from trucks to rail? I would be guided by experts on the feasibility of this and if feasible, yes, would push for this.
- Will you push for ending public funding for polluting coal, gas and oil industries – including tax concessions? YES
- Will you push for government and businesses to measure their environmental, social and cultural impact through transparent, detailed reporting frameworks? YES

Refugees

- Will you legislate to support a permanent end to offshore processing? I would like to see more cooperation and responsibility sharing with our regional neighbours where refugees are afforded basic legal protection, are treated with compassion, have clearer resettlement options and won't risk their lives making dangerous journeys across seas. In the longer term, I would support a regional processing framework that includes a single centralised system for processing claims that could be run by the UNHCR or a new regional body. Refugees should not have to sit in institutions for 5+ years waiting to be processed. The cost of offshore processing is exorbitant and leads to declining physical and mental health of refugees. I think it's important to commit to our international human rights obligations. We need to strive for bipartisan agreement on the best way forward on this.
- Will you support the reform of the immigration detention system? YES
- Will you push for a larger and more responsive Refugee and Humanitarian Program? YES

- Will you push for an increase in Australian humanitarian support within the Asia Pacific region?
YES

Environment

- Will you work with State and Local government to identify and protect all natural bush areas on public lands in Warringah? YES
- Will you push for 70% of Australia's plastic packaging be recycled or composted by 2025? YES
- Will you push for the removal of problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging to be phased out through design, innovation or introduction of alternatives? YES

Transport

- Do you support the immediate release of all Northern Beaches Tunnel investigation reports? YES
- Will you ensure the publication of analysis of viable public transport alternatives to the tunnel and a full cost benefit analysis of all viable options? YES
- The most critical infrastructure for the Northern Beaches is facilitating mass public transport on the East-West link between Dee Why, Mona Vale and Chatswood via Northern Beaches Hospital. Significant public transport improvements in this corridor have been consistently supported at a local level, but which have been rejected by the current NSW government. Will you support this proposal through the federal system in the near future? YES

Development

- Will you support mandatory inclusionary zoning for addressing housing affordability needs? YES
- Should appropriate development controls be imposed on development proposals by the Northern Beaches Council? YES

Housing and Development

- Will you advocate for at least a 25% increase in social and affordable housing? I support having additional social and affordable housing to meet the current shortfall. I would like to work with local and state government and community groups to assess the particular need, and appropriate solutions and level to which this must be increased.
- Will you advocate for a national funding scheme for affordable rental housing? YES
- Will you champion a change in policy, legislation and programs to resolve housing inequality?
YES
- Will you work towards mandating adequate public transport access for all new development projects? YES

Health

- Will you lobby the federal government to support additional funding to hospitals to provide 1:3 nurses to patient ratio for emergency departments in NSW? YES
- Will you support mandatory staffing ratios in aged care facilities? YES
- Will you support reforms to our Medicare benefits scheme to include dental health? YES

ABC

- Will you restore funding to the ABC to previous levels that existed prior to the \$83.7m reduction in the 2018 budget? **YES**
- Will you ensure that the ABC remains independent of political and Government influence, commercial sponsorship and advertising? **YES**
- Will you ensure that the ABC is adequately funded by the government to fulfil its role as an independent and comprehensive national public broadcaster? **YES**

Education

- Will you make efforts to facilitate greater engagement and participation in STEM based subjects? **YES**
- Will you advocate for greater funding of education in the next federal budget? **YES**
- Will you advocate for greater involvement in foreign language learning in NSW? **YES**

Open Questions

- **What makes for a strong community?** A strong community is healthy, safe and connected. A place where we value and respect each other; care for each other, support each other and celebrate our diversity. A strong community is where all people are recognised, listened to and those in need are supported.
To be healthy we must value our physical and mental health and treat them as equal. This is why I've called for more holistic health practices and more community programs in schools to promote mental strength and wellbeing.
Loneliness is a growing problem and while we're more connected through devices, we risk losing person to person connections. Our sports groups in Warringah help this enormously and all those who volunteer and participate in local sports should be commended for making our community stronger.
- **What do you value the most about living in Warringah?** We live in a very special part of the world. I feel so lucky to be able to raise my children in Warringah. What I value is our environment - our bush and beaches - and I want to preserve them for future generations. I also value our people, our heritage and unique local communities.