



19/1 Hordern Place, Camperdown NSW 2050
PO Box 366, Westgate NSW 2048

E: office@nsw.greens.org.au | Ph: (02) 9045 6999
www.greens.org.au/nsw

Jessica Leck
Regional Coordinator
Mid Coast 2 Tops Landcare
rlc@midcoast2topslandcare.org

Dear Jessica Leck,

Re: Questions for Candidates

Thank you for reaching out on behalf of Mid Coast 2 Tops Landcare (Landcare) and allowing me to respond to members' questions. The Greens are founded on ecological sustainability, and every day we fight to protect the natural world. We recognise that the work done by Landcare is invaluable.

1. Please introduce yourself to our community. Who are you, where is home and which party do you represent?

My name is Eleanor Spence. I am the Greens candidate for Myall Lakes at the State election on March 25th. I have lived in the electorate for over 40 years and was a candidate in the 2019 State election, & the MidCoast Council election in 2021. I joined The Greens in 2003.

Concern over the environment, growing climate impacts, and the disadvantage experienced by many in the electorate motivated me to contest the 2023 election.

I'm a Registered Nurse at Manning Hospital & recently worked in the community responding to the pandemic by vaccinating thousands. Public health and education are chronically underfunded; the Myall Lakes electorate, in particular, is suffering from decades of neglect.

I see coastal development as an urgent issue. Many projects that are already approved are inappropriate and environmentally damaging. These developments can't now be stopped by MidCoast Council, as state government legislation limits any power to intervene.

Logging of State Forests & land clearing is destroying koala habitat, threatening many endangered species, impacting water quality, and compounding the climate crisis.

Not enough is being done to limit the impact of weed species and feral animals on our environment and native animals. The Greens will work to support projects that target problem species, and repair habitat.

I'm a keen Parkrunner and bushwalker, who and will work towards our communities being more liveable, with pedestrian & cycle-friendly streets. Streets that are a pleasure to be in.

The impact of family violence, gambling and insecure housing, are issues I'm discussing with the community during the campaign. Greens policies are designed to respond effectively to these issues.

Greens MPs Cate Faehrmann & Sue Higginson have recently visited the electorate, in support of our Myall Lakes campaign. Cate was at the 'Concreting Our Coast' (Inappropriate Development Forum) on 21st February, and Sue attended the Myall Lakes Campaign Launch earlier that day.

2. How do you, and the party you represent, propose to support Landcare in NSW going forward?

The Greens recognise that the work done by Landcare is invaluable and will commit 59 million dollars to Landcare for the next four years.

3 - 4. How will you and the party you represent act to ensure that sufficient carbon reduction goals are met whilst also ensuring an equitable, sustainable transition for our businesses, workers, and the community? How will you and the party you represent address the dangerous state of our roads to improve our access and reduce driver and vehicle stress?

The Greens will phase out coal and gas by 2023 to ensure sufficient carbon reduction. We recognise that the coal industry plays a significant role in the economy and that the economic impacts of closing coal mines and coal-fired power stations must be mitigated.

The Greens will ensure the fossil fuel industry pays for the transition away from fossil fuels. The Greens will introduce a Climate Disaster Levy on coal exports to raise over \$7 billion per year towards climate recovery and transformation.

The Greens energy transition initiative, [Taking the Power Back](#) has committed \$500 million annually to establish fully funded, independent and community-led local transition authorities underneath an umbrella NSW Transition Authority.

These authorities will have the power to respond to the needs and desires of the community, like decisions about improving roads. The Greens will also ensure financial support for people working in the coal, oil and gas industries and ready access to training by restoring TAFE as a world-class educational institution. Please see our plan, [Tackling and Survivin the Climate Crisis](#)



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5. What will you and the party you represent do to enhance protection of existing natural areas?

The Greens will expand the NSW protected area network to at least 30% of land and water by 2030 to meet international obligations and protect our precious native species. We will also accelerate Native Title claims over Crown Land areas and resource First Nations land management programs, and end inappropriate development and infrastructure in or adjacent to national parks and the protected area network. Please see our plan to [Expand the Protected Area Network](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any further questions.

Kind regards,

Eleanore Spence

0419 269 272