

The state of NSW is heading to the polls on March 28th 2015 to elect our new members of government for another term. The Trust was approached by several candidates standing in the Lane Cove electorate looking to present their position on important election issues.

In the interests of impartiality, the committee members of The Trust collated a set of questions highlighting seven key issues important to the residents and businesses of Hunters Hill municipality. The committee then sought a meeting with each candidate (including the current sitting member Anthony Roberts).

Written responses were received from Andrew Zbik (Labor) and Pierre Masse (The Greens). The office of Anthony Roberts (Liberal) didn't provide a written response, but Anthony did agree to a meeting with The Trust. As at the time of writing, Jim Sanderson (Independent) had not yet provided a response to The Trust's questions.

Andrew Zbik, Pierre Masse and Jim Sanderson (Independent) have all signed and support the "*Community Charter for Planning*".

In instances of where an individual's name has been used, these were **the stated beliefs of the individual as opposed to party policy or beliefs**. Where the party's name was used (eg "*Labor supports*") followed the party policy or principle.

Many of the candidates provided extensive responses. The following is a summation of the responses received, and where relevant the notes from the meeting with Anthony Roberts (Liberal) included.

Planning

Andrew Zbik (Labor)

- Establish a planning commission for Sydney
- Restoration of the balance between economic, environmental and community needs
- Restoration of the community's right to have its say
- Restoration of provisions to allow the inclusion of affordable housing in new developments
- Labor believes it is time to build a second Sydney airport at Badgery's Creek
- Labor will use Government purchasing power to provide opportunities for local businesses build industry capability and create new skilled job opportunities for local workers.

Pierre Masse (Greens)

- Sustainable growth in Sydney may not be achievable
- Support an Ombudsman for well-being: Social, economic, and environmental factors
- The Greens support investment in Government owned public transport infrastructure
- The Greens propose a high speed rail on the east coast of Australia

- The Greens strongly support local business. Recent examples are the support provided by Lynne Saville (Greens Ctr) in Willoughby.

Anthony Roberts (Liberal)

- Anthony seeks to decentralise NSW.
- Move increases in population to regions outside Sydney by measures such as transferring Government offices to regional towns (such as Orange and Bathurst).
- Anthony believes his electorate of Lane Cove “*is at capacity now*”.
- In general, he favours the development of 'greenfield sites' where balanced, integrated development is possible, as opposed to infill development (e.g. along main roads and around railway stations, such as Victoria Rd and Parramatta Rd), which often fail to include open space and schools.
- Anthony has been active in seeking more green space in the new housing development near Delhi Rd, North Ryde (an 'Urban Activation Precinct').
- In its next term, Anthony hopes the government will introduce “community-based planning”.

Environment

Andrew Zbik (Labor)

- NSW Labor has called upon the NSW Liberal Government to halt the operation of the 10/50 rule until a Parliamentary Inquiry is completed
- A Labor Government will protect the world renowned Sydney Harbour by creating a dedicated Sydney Marine Park - to ensure its precious beauty and diversity will be enjoyed by future generations
- Target to reduce carbon emissions by 19% of 2000 levels by 2020
- NSW Labor at the 2014 State Conference called for the reinstatement of the Renewable Energy Target, which mandated 41,000 gigawatt hours of solar, wind and other renewable sources by 2020.

Pierre Masse (Greens)

- The Greens are opposed to 10/10 in urban areas. 10/50 Needs to be regulated, not self-assessed. Review from 350 metres to 100 metres insignificant in Hunters Hill. An opt-out for is required
- The Greens would like to see better management of public land, with better foresight, for future need of schools, hospitals, open space, and recreation space (even more important as living density keeps increasing)
- Water resources must be protected, esp. from mining (CSG) and overuse. The Greens support the collection and re-use of rainwater and domestic grey water
- The Greens support renewable energy industries. The Greens were responsible for the implementation of the Carbon Tax (and associated research fund) and the Renewable Energy Target.
- The Greens do not support population growth which is unsustainable and damages the natural environment.

Anthony Roberts (Liberal)

- Anthony Roberts asserted that “*the intent of the 10/50 legislation was fantastic*”, but the implementation inappropriate, with trees being cut down that he had protected when on Council.
- Hunters Hill does not need protection from bushfire, and should be exempted from 10/50
- The 10/50 legislation is still under review, and “*will be softened*”.

Heritage and the Gladesville Hospital

Andrew Zbik (Labor)

- Andrew is opposed to any sales of public lands. As our population grows, we will depend of public lands such as the Gladesville Hospital site to provide public services to the local community.

Pierre Masse (Greens)

- The Greens support measures to improve the independence of the Heritage Council by providing it with the statutory power to list items on the State register and make interim heritage protection orders without requiring Ministerial approval
- The Greens support the retention of the entire Gladesville Hospital site in public ownership, maintaining green open space and the heritage buildings, together with adaptive re-use of elements of the site that focus on community services and uses that are consistent with the important heritage values of the site.
- The Greens have supported the campaign to protect Thomson Square from the outset. It is the oldest public square in Australia dating back to the time of Governor Macquarie

Anthony Roberts (Liberal)

- Anthony Roberts suggested that he would like to keep the Gladesville Hospital site pretty much as it is with adaptive re-use of the existing buildings and opening up the area for public use.
- Anthony Roberts is also much in favour of access to the Gladesville Hospital site for sporting interests, despite parking being such a difficult issue
- Anthony Roberts agreed that the Bridge Street sandstone buildings (in the CBD of Sydney) should be preserved, but seemed in favour of leasing them for conversion to hotels etc.

Council Amalgamation

Andrew Zbik (Labor)

- Labor policy for a number of years has been that it will not support any forced Council amalgamations

Pierre Masse (Greens)

- The Greens oppose forced council amalgamations.

- The Greens do not oppose voluntary amalgamation, if democratic and not driven by a carrot and stick system.

Anthony Roberts (Liberal)

- Anthony opposes forced amalgamations because generally small Councils are more responsive to their communities.

Sale of Public Assets

Anthony Roberts (Liberal)

- Anthony Roberts believes it is OK to sell NSW's Poles & Wires now because they are now "*totally regulated sensibly*", and will fall in value
- Anthony Roberts doesn't believe in privatising water.

Pierre Masse (Greens)

- The Greens oppose both the sale and the lease of electricity asset. Public assets must remain in public hands, especially in the supply of essential services such as health, education, transport, electricity, water, gas, social services.

Andrew Zbik (Labor)

- Labor policy opposes privatisation of poles and wires. Dividends from poles and wires = \$1.7bn in 2013. The NSW Liberal Government has not disclosed how they will cover the annual funding short-fall to the state budget after proposed sale.

Political Donations and Prosecutions following ICAC

Anthony Roberts (Liberal)

- Action proposed by government will ensure NSW will never again see corruption of the level uncovered by ICAC thanks to increasing levels of regulation (some being actively opposed by the gas industry)

Andrew Zbik (Labor)

- Labor has implemented toughest and most transparent code of conduct for Labor Shadow Ministers in the nation.

Pierre Masse (Greens)

- The Greens Support ICAC and prosecutions out of it. We support strengthening ICAC - one of the disgraced Liberal members in Charlestown or Newcastle was on the ICAC overseeing committee. I see this as a real threat to ICAC.
- The Greens continue to push for a federal Government ICAC.

Mining

Anthony Roberts (Liberal)

- Anthony Roberts believes mining should only proceed where appropriate, and where welcomed by local communities.
- All mining information, including information about aquifers, will be available on-line, will show all details, and be accessible to all. The result will be more transparent than Councils' DA systems.

Pierre Masse (Greens)

- The Greens strongly oppose, and propose a quick transition from coal to renewables.

Andrew Zbik (Labor)

- Labor supports a permanent ban on coal seam gas activity in the core water catchment areas of Sydney and the Illawarra. The Sydney water catchment consists of Warragamba, Woronora, Upper Nepean, Blue Mountains and Shoalhaven. These supply drinking water to 60 per cent of the State's population.