



The Secretary
Southern Sydney Branch
NPA National Parks Association of NSW

Attention: Gary Schoer

Dear Gary

Thank you for your email of 1 December last.

As you are aware, I will be formally announcing today or tomorrow my candidature for the Heathcote electorate at the NSW State election in March 2011. A media release will be sent under separate cover shortly.

For the last 18 months, I have been actively committed to preserving the environs of this area, an area that I have had the pleasure of experiencing as a resident for over 10 years. These last 18 months have been the most frustrating time of my life, seeing an area known for its millions of years of unbridled growth, be exposed to unjustified and apparently senseless destruction by man for what can only be considered to be greed.

The processes allowing this development to happen appears to be flawed, at all levels of government and commerce. It is abundantly obvious to me those that are there to represent us have failed their fiduciary knowledge to inform us.

If this is not the case, why does Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) not allow me, you or others to go onto "our" lands. But mining companies appear to have unlimited access. Why? What don't they want us to see? Gary, one of the first things I will do when my nomination form has been lodged will be to make an application to the SCA to inspect these lands. I would be pleased to have you accompany me on that inspection.

You will also no doubt know the Otford Protection Society Incorporated's [Planning Proposal](#) that sought to protect in part the lands which you are referring. That document, conceived and co-authored by me with widespread community input, including from yourself, was rejected by the Planning Minister, although the first such community planning proposal of its kind. I believe a Regional Planning Director defended the Minister's decision because "it would set a precedent". The Minister had the solution to your proposal in part on his desk, he opted not to embrace it.

Similarly I have vigorously fought against the Wollongong City Council 7d land review of the very lands surrounding the area to which you mention. Indeed it was only the determined vigilance of local Natasha Watson of Otford that make the discovery of the Apex Energy documentation. And the Council documents did not contain one single reference to coal seam gas (methane) or a power station scheduled for Helensburgh. The "fracking" process that is used to harvest this gas will have irreversible effects if any of the compound either penetrates or leaches into the Sydney Water Catchment of the adjoining Woronora Dam, Sydney's drinking water supply.

In my capacity as Public Officer of Otford Protection Society Incorporated, please rest assured I will continue to attend community meetings such as recently held at Broke, Mudgee and Redfern, to oppose the overall strategy of coal seam gas (methane) extraction.

I have supported the NPA position previously as a resident through my previous actions and will continue to do so as an Independent candidate.

Warmest regards

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