

GREG PETTY

Independent Candidate for Lord Mayor

MEDIA RELEASE



Illawarra Escarpment Network Response

Illawarra Escarpment Network is seeking responses from candidates at the upcoming Wollongong City Council on their views on the future direction of the Illawarra Escarpment.

- 1a) How important is the protection of the Escarpment to your campaign? **In my opinion, critical.**
- 1b) Please rate or describe your commitment. **10/10. Living at Helensburgh and fighting for the preservation of the 7d environmentally sensitive lands of Helensburgh, Otford, Stanwell Tops, Stanwell Park and Darkes Forest, I have been working to ensure these lands which connect the Illawarra Escarpment are fully protected from ANY inappropriate development. This includes land swaps of development in return for gifting land to state agency and the hideous petroleum exploration for Coal Seam Gas (CSG) mining.**
- 2) If elected to Council, will you resist development that will further encroach on the Illawarra Escarpment in the Wollongong LGA? **Yes. Of course, this is "continue to resist".**
- 3) If your answer to the above question is no, under what circumstances can you envisage that further development of the Escarpment might be appropriate? **Not applicable**

As co-convenor of Neighbourhood Forum 1, I am able to report Wollongong City Council has commenced work on a review of the "50 metre" rule adjoining the Illawarra Escarpment. An initial report to Neighbourhood Forum conveners summarized land use, lot size and ownership details. Following a review with conveners, more work is to be done on the report to further understand the nature of the area in question. I would certainly encourage Council to continue this work after the election and to make the report public as soon as possible.

In closing, the key issues included in your communication;

- a) ensuring that further development does not encroach on the Escarpment, and,*
- b) promoting the environmental values of the Escarpment by working toward protecting and restoring its ecological integrity, ie. by ensuring that where parts of the Escarpment have been downgraded by human impacts that we work toward restoring conservation value.*

I would be more than happy to adopt as my commitment on the Illawarra Escarpment.

My running partner, Ray Robinson, has a long and proud involvement with the escarpment, a significant factor why Ray is running and number 2 on the Greg Petty Independent Team ticket.

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