

GREG PETTY - Independent Candidate for Heathcote



MEDIA RELEASE

18 January 2011

Independent Heathcote Candidate Greg Petty asks “Does Otford Sewerage Pumping Station have outflows?”

Greg Petty documents residents concerns if water testing being carried out when access to overflow pipes is restricted

Otford resident Natasha Watson has reported to Sydney Water a discharge from the Low Pressure Sewerage Pumping Station in Lady Carrington Road Otford (see pictures below).

Weeds have overgrown so much that it is now impossible to view the overflow outlet behind the station, - preventing it from being monitored. Closer visual inspection of the murky waters shows the water quality of the Hacking River (creek) worsens downstream after the Pumping Station.

Upstream of the Pumping Station the stream is vibrant with bug life, frogs, yabbies, fish, etc but this is not evident after the pumping station says Natasha Watson.

Greg Petty Independent Candidate for Heathcote and Natasha Watson, Secretary of Otford Protection Society, had been viewing RailCorp fencing when the sewerage discovery was made. The Liberal Dharawal plan to connect Dhawarral SCA and Royal National Park is under threat after questions by the Independent Candidate as to the location and placement of the existing RailCorp fencing.

Spiky weeds prevent access to view the emergency overflow pipe of the Pumping Station so how can Sydney Water monitor the overflow pipe and any discharges if the pipe cannot be viewed asks Greg Petty.

The spill has been reported to Sydney Water and the only response is an email “Thank you for your e-mail. We will endeavour to respond to your enquiry within five working days. Please be advised that we are currently experiencing a higher than usual volume of emails, resulting in delays with a response. We apologise for this inconvenience”.

Mr. Petty stated “This must be a concern for Wollongong City Council and the state government. Council would like us to believe the area can cope with increased development and reinforces residents perception the state government’s policy of ignoring planned routine maintenance is flawed. Our health and the pristine nature of the Hacking River are at risk. The most obvious question is why Sydney Water is allowed to have unmonitored overflow pipes into the Hacking River which flows into the jewel of the States national park, Royal National Park?”

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Photos by Natasha Watson



Leaking pipe at Otford LPS pumping station Jan 16 2011



Heavy weed infestation at Otford LPS Pumping Station Jan 16 2011



Hacking River - Downstream (North) from the Pumping Station Jan 16 2011