

GREG PETTY - Independent Candidate for Heathcote

Member of the John Hatton Independent Team



MEDIA RELEASE

20 January 2011

Independent Heathcote Candidate Greg Petty seeks answers “Is untreated raw sewerage overflowing into the Hacking River?”

Greg Petty contemplates the world’s oldest national park, Royal National Park, closed for Australia Day. The chance of a potential environmental disaster increased as crews struggled to find leaks at the Otford Pumping Station.

Sydney Water has been notified of a discharge from the Low Pressure Sewerage Pumping Station in Lady Carrington Road Otford. “Today, Sydney Water crews scratched their heads trying to locate the overflow pipe underneath all the prickly weeds” reports Otford resident Natasha Watson.

A series of before and after photos taken by Natasha Watson of the creek and river at the Pumping Station have been forwarded to Sydney Water to officially document the spills. The photos graphically record how raw sewerage left untreated can so quickly pollute the pristine water of the Hacking River.



Upstream Hacking Creek - 30m before passing LPS Pumping Station Jan 18, 2011



Close up of surface scum on Hacking Creek below LPS Pumping Station - Jan 18, 2011

A maintenance crew struggled to find the source of the leak, moving back and forth from the building to the creek. Plans within the pump house failed to assist the crew find the location of an overflow pipe or a leak when concerned residents finally left the area late Tuesday.

Greg Petty Independent Candidate for Heathcote has been receiving calls from concerned residents that the noticeable discharge has increased in the past few days. “The quality of the water after the Pumping Station has certainly deteriorated quickly” stated Mr. Petty.

Inspections of the site by Mr. Petty and Stanwell Park resident Mr. Warwick Erwin on Wednesday morning and afternoon showed no sign of Sydney Water physical activity to rectify the problem, despite a second crew attending the site. Community groups have emailed DECCW for urgent action, escalating the matter past

Sydney Water. If the overflow pipe has been covered by vegetation, why has the maintenance stopped thereby preventing visual inspection of the pipe?

Mr. Petty stated “Our state government would like us to believe self monitoring is working to our advantage. Here is the perfect example that clearly it is not. Furthermore, does Wollongong City Council have current records of all the bores, springs and creeks that are tributaries to the Hacking River – let alone is routine monitoring being conducted? If the answer is no, how does and how did it assess the environmental impact of any development application in this environmentally sensitive region which remained untouched by mankind for millions of years?

An application to DECCW has been made by this office for water quality test records for the past seven years on the Hacking River between the Otford Road Otford weir to Audley weir, and the surrounding creeks, including the Kemps and Wilson Creeks together with the Hanging Swamp at Stanwell Tops.

Media Contact:

Greg Petty’s Office

Greg Petty (0407) 473 889

greg@gregpetty.com.au

www.gregpetty.com.au

Authorised by: Greg Petty 130 Walker Street, Helensburgh NSW 2508

Background Article

18/01/2011 [Outlet Sewerage Outlet overflows](#)

Additional photos by Natasha Watson

