

26 April 2016

### CLEAN POLITICS AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURES-TAREE COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Julie Lyford, Greens candidate for the seat of Lyne, has been meeting with communities within the electorate and last week was in Taree. Julie says:

*“It was a great pleasure to meet with and listen to many residents of Taree and surrounding communities last Wednesday evening. As the Federal Greens candidate for Lyne, I am hosting community conversations about what matters to the people in the Lyne electorate. I want to know what people care about and what the key issues are for these communities.”*

Strong patterns are emerging. Key concerns are about:

- trust in politics and political processes
- the inappropriateness of corporate donations
- lack of taxation fairness and reform
- the decimation of a once world-class TAFE system
- High youth unemployment levels in the electorate
- Proper funding of the public health system.

The Greens want full restoration of TAFE funding so apprentices can afford training and we have a skilled workforce for Lyne residents and businesses.

Small and medium businesses (SME's) are the backbone of Australia's economy and need to be supported. They are the lifeblood of our communities and are vital for our economic and social future.

Residents have discussed the need for protection of agricultural land and water supplies, with climate change causing deep concern for now and the future. The destructive coral bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef is of great concern to many. The Greens continue to have climate change, renewable energy solutions and resulting jobs as a top priority.

Foreign investment, local government amalgamations, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), public schools and hospital funding, Gonski – these are key areas of concern and the Greens are strong advocates in these areas.

An issue causing great angst for residents and business owners is the lack of fairness within the taxation system. Favouring the large corporations whilst being punitive on the small business owner and citizens is unfair and has to be fixed.

Taxation justice and reform is sorely needed and is a key policy for the Greens. Working for a fair and equitable system that allows for full funding of our public hospitals, public schools, TAFE and vital public health systems is urgent and a top priority.

Julie has a request for the community:

*“If you know any young people who feel disengaged and are not seeing the political process as useful, I urge you to encourage them and their friends to enrol to vote and make sure they have their voice heard. It is vital people feel hope and have the right and ability to take part in their democracy. Whichever way you vote, please look at the policies of all the parties. Ask questions. Make sure we have a future for the generations to come. Intergenerational equity and social justice has never been more critical. A healthy democracy needs your energy and involvement. Thank you to everyone who came and contributed to the community conversation. We will continue meeting people in Taree and surrounding areas to listen to your concerns and ideas. We have great communities. Let’s get working on sustainable futures for everyone.”*

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