



Photo: Richard Green

8 May 2019

Dr Fiona Kotvojs  
Liberal for Eden Monaro  
701 Reedy Swamp Road  
DIGNAMS CREEK NSW 2550

Dear Fiona,

Trust you are well. I am sure you are busy with pre-election activities and visiting potential constituents.

I am disappointed that you have not responded to my letter. The matters I raised I spent the last 10 learning of and thinking about; they emanated from experiential and scientific knowledge and from my sincere love of the natural world.

You were missed at the Meet the Candidates at Bermagui and your apology was presented. For your information I have attached my rough notes from the meeting. The camaraderie between all of the candidates was surprisingly pleasant, and there was much commonality of thought.

I trust this information gives you an indication of the community's thoughts on the issues I raised with you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bronte Somerset". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, elegant style.

Dr Bronte Somerset  
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## NOTES FROM MEET THE CANDIDATES, BERMAGUI, 05.05.2019

Present: James Holgate, Independent; Mike Kelly, Labor; Pat McGinlay, Greens; Chamara Singh, UAP.  
Moderator Bill Southwood.

Apologies: included Fiona Kotvojs, Liberal, due to prior commitments.

Speakers: Frances Perkins, Nat Trust; Matthew Nott, CEFE; Mike Thompson, NPA South; David Munro, Bermagui Chamber of Commerce

1. James: Discussed his background, is from Cooma, supports republican movement, angry about the brumbies in Kosciusko National Park. Concerned about the aged care, the environment, population and education.
2. Mike K.: summarised past successes and initiatives including the banning of trawlers. He elaborated on his political/career achievements. His approach is based on policies which have derived from his passion for the region. He considers security is a major threat as is suicide rate among young people. The federal government considers that climate change is the major issue and that a suite of policies is required to address it.?? Allocations include: \$1 billion for climate, \$100 million for an endangered species, \$90 million for the war against plastics. If returned to power he would pull back the \$400 million allocated for Barrier reef protection. He is trying to identify to go from the Paris treaty which would oppose Adjani and issues relating to the environment. Further Labor policies. <sup>1</sup>
3. Pat: Born in Ireland, moved to Scotland is an Australian citizen. Migrated to Whyalla which did not represent the beauty showing in immigration to Australia advertisements. Summarised his background. He stated the main Greens policy was to advocate for climate change as they have been doing for two decades and is now being taken more seriously. He also advocated for more projections for the ecological system.
4. Chandra: Born in India is from Fiji ran businesses in Fiji moved to Cooma and Kalaru, invested in motels and was wiped out financially. Had a vested interest in the royal commission into banking. His policies relate to climate change and nothing else.

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- <sup>1</sup> Bringing in a new *Federal Environment Act* within this term that “ensures the Australian Government must ‘protect and restore Australia’s environment’”;
  - Allocating \$50 million in funding to establish the new Act and an independent national Environment Protection Authority ‘with the mission to protect Australia’s natural environment and deliver rigorous compliance’; and
  - Earmarking \$100 million for a Native Species Protection Fund tasked with restoring numbers of endangered plants and animals and eliminating invasive species.

## SPEAKERS:

1. David: from the beginning Community forum and primary concerns for this region he considers to be aged care and affordable housing including 'rent to buy schemes'. He is pro-migration.

Response from Mike K. was that the 'living longer and better' scheme still has hundred and 30,000 people on the waiting list. ??\$66 million more funding for respite facilities and the full scale of age care to be advised. He supports the 'build to rent' approach.

2. Matthew: has run CEFE since 2006. Considers the main is you is climate change, noted that seven states in the US are running on 100% renewable energy. He considers climate is in a state of emergency for this electric and supports that the Bega Valley endorse a 100% renewable energy target. By show of hands, the meeting agreed to support a Clean Energy meeting in Bermagui which Matthew would set up.
3. Mike T. spoke about the land sector issues that carbon was the greatest issue. That the benefit of stopping logging, no hanging fruit, would immediately Address this issue party. And that jobs into a reason and wildlife protection could be created. Mike\_raised the issue of carbon metrics and why they were not being addressed.

Mike K's response: Labour wants to achieve 100% emissions reduction level by 2050. He spoke about forestry plantations mentioned the work of Judith Adjani supports reforestation replanting and plantations on private property. But, no indication of stopping native forest logging.

Pat's response: promoted stopping logging in native forests especially the production of woodchips.

Chandra supported reforestation in drought affected areas and some station of land being cleared.

4. Frances: spoke of her joint paper '*Logging or carbon credits*' written with Andrew Mackintosh, which proved that carbon emissions would be negated over the three Shires in the region by stopping logging native forests.

Mike K. spoke about how the Federal Government was to create a Federal Environment Protection Agency Act with hooks which trigger a legal power to stop those which impact on climate, e.g. Adani. This would enable the Commonwealth to take a more active role.

Pat wanted to scrap the RSA is and four environmental protection responsibilities to be taken away from states.

James though that 'declaring an emergency' was insufficient as 'we are in an emergency'. Internet of his approach to the elections, he quoted Groucho Marx "if you don't like any of my principles, I do have others".

Mike K. said \$62 million will be allocated to threats to the south coastal areas. Labor would introduce and fund carbon initiatives and support reduction. He spoke about the success Australia had had at the UN in terms of directing Global regimes for carbon credits.

## QUESTION TIME

All members of the panel opposed coal mining, fracking and nuclear power.

My question:

*Data from a poll run by Forests and Wood Products Australia, and two other national polls, show that over 72% of the public disapprove of native forest logging. What are the underlying philosophical principles which uphold native forest logging, yet override the will of the public?*

Mike K. could not respond.

James said: flawed.

Pat noted social licence needed to be given to the public.

Bronte Somerset

5 May 2019