

# Bookoccino State candidates 20230319 rough mix

Mon, Mar 20, 2023 1:43AM 1:26:07

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

rory, new south wales, community, question, issues, northern beaches, government, vote, greens, jeffrey, state, hospital, candidates, jackie, council, local, mona, advocate, pep, independent

## SPEAKERS

Sarah Turnbull, Jonathan Woods, Hilary Green, Jacqui Scruby, Rory Amon, Audience, Jeffrey Quinn, Charlie Shea, Philip Crenigan, Amelia, Sally Bookoccino

---

S

Sally Bookoccino 00:01

Welcome to our candidates debate. A big thank you to all of our candidates for joining us today. It's great for our community to be able to hear directly from you and I know you've been doing quite a few of these. So best of luck to all of you.

S

Sally Bookoccino 00:30

I'm going to introduce the candidates briefly. Hilary Green is our Greens candidate. She was born in Manly, into a post war family with five children. She spent much of her younger days at the beaches. She's lived in Pittwater for 23 years. She studied to become a high school math teacher - in the country, in special schools, in Papua New Guinea and at Pittwater High School. As a single mother, she took up further studies and began tutoring at Macquarie University. Her 25 year career there involves lecturing in statistics, research and some consultation, and she has a PhD in statistics. After leaving Macquarie she continued to teach at other universities. And she helped Professor Don McNeil formerly of Macquarie with students of his research program in Thailand. She then became a volunteer helping with the reading program at Mona Vale public school, more recently with ethics classes. She is an activist for various causes. She joined the Greens. She was welcomed into the knitting Nana's. She then became a real Nana. And here she is your Greens candidate.

S

Sally Bookoccino 01:53

Rory Amon is a community advocate, a volunteer firefighter and a family lawyer, and has been for a decade. He is a lifelong Northern Beaches local who proudly calls Narrabeen home. He has been an active volunteer firefighter for a decade and was awarded the New South Wales premiers bushfire emergency citation and the Governor General's National Emergency Medal for his services fighting the devastating 2019 2020 Black summer bushfires on the New South

Wales south coast. Rory has been a Northern Beaches Councillor since 2017, where his proudest achievements include securing 2.5 million to fast track the rebuild of the Mona Vale surf club and working with Councillor Alex McTaggart to secure 4.6 million to protect the Newport literal rainforests from development. Rory is running for State Parliament to continue the strong work of Rob Stokes, who delivered improved services and record infrastructure for Pittwater as part of the Perrotet liberal team. He is committed to keeping the New South Wales economy strong to reduce cost of living pressures, to deliver the Mona Vale road West widening, upgrade the Newport Surf Lifesaving club and complete the upgrades of North Narrabeen public school and Narrabeen sports high. Thanks for being here Rory.

**S** Sally Bookoccino 03:31

Jackie Scruby is an environmental lawyer. She has also been a small business owner and most recently an adviser to our federal MP Dr. Sophie Scamps. Jacqui and her husband have two young daughters and deep roots on the northern beaches. Her grandfather was one of the first principles of Pittwater high. Throughout her career, she has looked for ways to prepare the community, the economy and the country for a carbon free future. As an environmental lawyer, she has worked with the environmental defenders office and advised governments and major companies on climate risk and decarbonisation. Jackie believes Pittwater has been taken for granted by the Liberal Party, and as a community-led independent she vows to vote in the interests of our community, not in the party's best interest. Thanks Jacqui.

**S** Sally Bookoccino 04:33

Jeffrey Quinn is a lifelong local. He currently resides in church point with his family. He owns a local small business specializing in education consulting, working closely with families across our community. Jeffrey believes that after 12 years of the Liberal government taking our community for granted we deserve a local who will advocate for us. He's part of a Minn's Labour government fighting for improved public transport, real climate action and maintaining crucial public services. Thank you Jeffrey.

**S** Sally Bookoccino 05:14

I'm going to hand over to our moderator Amelia. Amelia Phillips has worked in TV and the media for 25 years, with a primary focus on health and wellbeing. Thankyou Amelia. We certainly have our candidates in the hot seat today. So let's get started

**A** Amelia 05:38

thank you so much, Sally. And a huge thank you to Sally and Ray from Bookoccino, for putting on today's amazing debate. Thank you for everything that Bookoccino does. We are so lucky to have a company like you guys in the northern beaches supporting our local community. And a huge welcome to everyone today, look at this amazing turnout on such a hot day. It's so encouraging to see so many of us taking a real interest in politics in our local community, because guess what? We're going to vote next weekend. And Who on earth are we going to vote for? It's been really interesting having a quick chat to some of you beforehand, a lot of you

don't know yet who you're going to vote for. So today is an opportunity to hear from our four candidates. So that when you go to the polling booths next Saturday, you are going to feel so much more informed and confident and play a really big role in our beautiful area

A

Amelia 06:37

So how it's going to work today is very much a two way street. We're going to be looking for lots of questions from you guys. But before we get into questions, each candidate is going to have two and a half minutes to tell us what they would like us to hear from where they stand, and then I'll give you a little extra 30 seconds. So we'll ring the bell at two and a half. And then if you need another 30 seconds till three then we're hard stopping at three. After that, after all four candidates have spoken, then they will each get an opportunity to ask another candidate one question. So we will hear those four questions, one from each candidate. And then after that we'll throw to audience questions and a few emailed questions that have come through. I want to get us out of here sometime between five and quarter past five. We'll see how we go, unless our candidates melt. Now so before we kick off just because it is a democracy, I'm going to ask someone to pick from the hat to see who gets to go first.

A

Amelia 08:20

So just before we kick off, I just also want to frame something just to help us all feel a little more informed as well. For the upcoming elections, based on a survey that was done late last year to 3402 residents of our area, I just like to highlight what the 10 local issues were from this survey of over 3000 people just so that you're aware and as I say these 10, have a think about what really resonates for you. Maybe there's one issue here that really, you know, really strikes a chord with you or maybe there's lots of issues okay, but that will help inform the questions. So the top 10 local issues that came through the survey was number one protecting our local environment. Number two hospitals and health services. Number three overdevelopment. Four major road upgrades, five, public transport, six mental health services, seven housing affordability, eight waste and recycling, nine coastal erosion and 10 schools. So they were the local issues and then on a state and federal level, the three main issues from our electorate that we are concerned with is climate change, environmental protection and integrity and tackling corruption. So hopefully that frames for you what our electorate is interested in. And without further ado, Jeffrey, please kick off.

A

Audience 09:54

Question: Who undertook the survey?

A

Amelia 09:55

Yes. It was done through our independent MP. Sophie Scamps.

J

Jeffrey Quinn 10:05

Welcome everyone. Firstly, I acknowledge the traditional owners and the land on which we

welcome everyone. Firstly, I acknowledge the traditional owners and the land on which we meet and pay my respects to their elders past and present of the communities that may be here today, or have lived here in the past. I'm a proud member of the Labour Party and I've been in the party for a long time. I've become the candidate here. And I see it as a really big deal that I'm proud to be the candidate. The issues that I see are really local. The first one is privatization. I'm really against the way that we've seen everything sold. As a member of the rebuild Mona Vale hospital committee. And as such I'm committed to getting public services back in this area. I don't want to see our medical system privatized to the extent that it becomes Americanized.

**J** Jeffrey Quinn 11:05

Locally, we've seen things happen with zone changes. The Labour Party is really committed to working with the local groups to make sure that we don't end up doing things to this area that we've seen happen in other areas on the northern beaches, overdevelopment being the main one.

**J** Jeffrey Quinn 11:29

I've lived here for 63 years. I used to play cricket for Narrabeen RSL. And I grew up here, went to school at Narrabeen, I've always been involved with surfing or swimming or some part of the beach. And as such, I really want us to see us look after our beaches. And that means we have to look after climate change at a governmental, at a state level, and again, you're seeing it happening at a federal level with the changes the Labour Party has made.

**J** Jeffrey Quinn 12:00

If we do not educate our children, then we're not going to have a society that we need, or that they deserve. We've seen funds taken out of private schools across the state. But we've also seen it happening here where we're losing teachers because they can't afford to live here, or the conditions are so bad, or the pressure on them from a work point of view is just over the top. I was lucky when I was a primary school teacher down the road here, I only had to program for 27 particular curriculum areas. Now they're not, the enormity of their work is adding five to six hours a week on top of their teaching and preparation time. It's just too hard. We're not paying them well enough. And unfortunately, we don't respect teachers at the level that I think they deserve. The Labour Party is going to work on that and change the system. And we're going to stop privatizing the system in that area as well. The first time I spoke to anyone en masse was out at the Barrenjoey Lighthouse protest. And that's something that's part of what we've got to cherish here to the heritage of our local environment. Plus the heritage of our built environment. If the current party continues in government they will privatize and commercialize their national parks.

**A** Amelia 13:33

Thank you, Jeffrey. Thank you

R

**Rory Amon 13:43**

Well, I'm a lifelong Northern Beaches local with a proven track record for delivering in our community. Whether it's my career as a family lawyer or the decade I've spent as a volunteer firefighter with the Davidson volunteer Rural Fire Brigade, or the last five and a bit years on Northern Beaches Council. I'm really passionate about serving this area. And I'm passionate about serving you and our community. I'm proud of my many achievements on council, which were mentioned earlier - securing \$2.5 million to fast track the Mona Vale surf club, \$4.6 million to protect the Newport littoral rainforest from development. They're things that I'm really proud to have achieved. In our area we've been served really well by Rob Stokes for the past 16 years and the past 12 years that he's had in government we've seen the restoration of Currawong Beach, completing Narrabeen lagoon trail, delivering the Mona Vale public school upgrade, which was a \$53 million job. We've introduced B-line and keoride. I've had the fortune of being part of a party that can actually govern and actually form a government for the benefit of our community. And that's how Rob was able to deliver for us for the last 12 years by being in government. I'm here today because I hope to continue Rob's great work serving our community. In the same way he did it which was dignified, respectful and with the utmost integrity. My plans and some of my hopes for the area are very local, we need to finish widening Mona Vale road, we need to fast track the upgrade at the Newport surf club. We need to flood proof the Wakehurst Parkway by demanding that council spend the money given to it by the state government to actually fix those flooding issues. Because it's imperative that we do. Much has been said in his campaign about grassroots and community campaigns. And really some will claim that they're the grassroots but the reality is that the grassroots did not belong to one campaign or one party. They belong to all of us. And look nothing has brought me greater joy than working with those community groups be it the Mona Vale surf club, be it the Eleanora scouts, various groups and interest groups of people, Pittwater knitters and those kinds of groups over the last five years. And that's what it's all about, knowing our local community knowing every street knowing every pothole, knowing every gutter, knowing every little group that needs something done for them. And in the last 50 years that Pittwater has been in existence, we've had one independent elected to represent us. And that was ultimate target. And I'm really proud and honored to have Alex's endorsement to be the next member for Pittwater. Because Alex knows everything there is to know about community as a former councillor, a local mayor, and the member for pittwater. Alex knows exactly what our community is about. And so I'm really humbled by having his endorsement and look, the next six days, you're all going to be thinking about what you want what matters to you. And today, I'm here to listen, the next six days, I'm here to listen, if I'm elected, I'll be there to listen. And I'm really looking forward to today because my plan for Pittwater is positive. I know that a Liberal government will keep Pittwater moving forward in all respects and keep New South Wales moving forward as well. So I'll leave it there. Thank you.

A

**Amelia 16:43**

Fantastic. Thank you, Rory. Ok, Hilary.

H

**Hilary Green 16:51**

Thanks, Amelia. So, I would like to acknowledge that we live on the lands with the Garigal peoples and pay my respects to all their elders, and thank them for being the guardians of these places for 10s of 1000s of years. So for me. mv luck began with a scholarship to

university. A secure job after meant I was able to put a deposit on a unit. As a single mother Medicare was always available and a labor Labor government program gave the opportunity to retrain for a new career. My postgraduate degrees were affordable. I didn't need HECS. My daughter enjoyed a public school education and excelled at university, but she's still playing HECS. You see, I've been very fortunate with opportunities - in education, in health, secure employment, and affordable housing. These are the very problems facing so many of us today, especially our young people, and something has to change. The Greens are advocating for change to enable everyone to hope and to have a fair go. So just in education alone - The Greens believe that governments have a responsibility to provide high quality comprehensive public education for everyone across preschools, schools, TAFE and universities in all communities. We will immediately give all New South Wales public school teachers a minimum 15% pay rise, we'll deliver 100% of the school resourcing standard across New South Wales, we'll reduce the administrative load on teachers and let them teach. The Greens will restore our TAFE system will make TAFE free again for all students and deliver a salary increase for TAFE teachers. At preschool will ensure free and universal preschool by 2030. At the university level, we will fund universities adequately and disallow the privatization of the university tertiary sector. We will put caps on Union executive salaries, reject the casualisation and restore secure ongoing employment for those very educated educators. You can ask me more, and about our health and integrity policies later, or look up our comprehensive policy platform on the internet. The Greens have always been at the forefront of advocating for protecting our environment and tackling climate change. We all know the Greens have been warning Australians that our climate and environment are at dire risk. We've been doing this for over 30 years. Now with the evidence staring us in the face you can reflect on how we have been changing the political conversation over those years. But why has it taken so long? Listen to us now. In this election we must vote for change. Vote one green in the Upper House and in the Lower House.

A

Amelia 19:53

Thank you Hillary

J

Jacqui Scruby 20:05

Hi, everyone. So I'm Jacqui Scruby. My intro has already preceded me. But as Sally mentioned, I've been working with Sophie Scamps on her campaign and most recently in Canberra. It was during that time I saw the wonderful influence that she and other independents on the crossbench had on shaping some of the most amazing reform we've had in a long time, being the national anti corruption commission, the Climate Change Act, and many other pieces of legislation, whether it be moving amendments or driving certain policy areas as well. So that was inspirational and it shows the role of independents. And also, what we saw at the federal election was people standing up for a community backed independent, to represent them on the issues that matter. And Amelia just mentioned some of those issues. And they flow into my policy platform, which is climate integrity economy and how that plays out at both New South Wales level, and also at a local level as well. So in terms of climate, you know, this government will say that they've got great climate credentials, and I'm sure Rory will speak to some of those things today, but there are some glaring holes that can't be ignored. So at a state level, that is the clearing of native forests which doesn't make economic sense, it costs the taxpayer twelve million dollars a year and also doesn't make environmental sense to be clearing, you

know, and risking biodiversity, but also clearing carbon stores. Also, we've got new coal and gas approvals, 20 sinks since the Paris Agreement with eight more on the horizon. I've just had farmers down at the markets with me from Liverpool Plains who are urging the government to make the Liverpool Plains and exclusion zone for the Santos gas project, because it is one of the most fertile areas of Australia. And also, of course, Pep 11, which is off our coastline. And when that became a live issue again, I worked with existing members of the New South Wales Parliament, being Justin Field and Alex Greenwich to develop a piece of legislation that I'm ready to pass on that. In terms of local issues, obviously, over development, and that links in to protecting our beautiful natural environment here. And particularly making sure we keep houses and homes nestled in trees, and, you know, keep our canopies and make sure that we don't lose our conservation zones, and that with the harmonization of the LEP that's proposed, I'm advocating to prevent some of the impacts that are at risk with that. In terms of integrity. Obviously, we need more integrity in New South Wales parliament, you only need to open the newspaper to read about John Barilaro jobs for mates culture, but also at a local level that goes to everything, the privatization of our buses, the lack of release of the business case for the Northern Beaches tunnel and the risks that has to overdevelopment in this area. And of course, Wakehurst Parkway, which still hasn't been fixed, I also Narrabeen sports high.

**J** Jacqui Scruby 23:08

Ok, thanks Jacqui, wrapping it up at three.

**A** Amelia 23:20

Thank you to all our candidates for your overview. We're now going to move on to question time with our candidates and we will go in the same order. So Jeffrey, you can ask the first question to whichever three you like, followed by Rory, Hilary and then Jackie.

**J** Jeffrey Quinn 23:39

I'd like to ask Rory if we'll ever get a proper public hospital at Mona Vale.

**R** Rory Amon 23:52

Jeff, when the decision was made about the Mona Vale hospital site many years ago, I shared the concerns that you've expressed today. And that is the idea that there's a loss of public service on the northern beaches. That changed when I actually had to go to Northern Beaches hospital myself and had a really good experience, not only personally but when I saw and watched other people be treated there, people die there, and people get health care there. But then not only that, that changed when I saw the benefits that the new Mona Vale hospital site has, which is there are now 10 palliative care beds where people can die with dignity with the most beautiful view. There's a rehab facility, there's an urgent care center where people can go to when they need it most. There is an upgraded ambulance station which provides improved ambulance services across the entire area. And that site has had \$90 million invested in it. And it's soon to be \$96 million invested with it because a re-elected government has committed to putting renal dialysis chairs there which currently don't exist up at the Northern Beaches

hospital. So I'm committed to ensuring that we continue to add services to the Mona Vale hospital site because under the previous government, all that was proposed was to knock down that building at Mona Vale and nothing else. Rob Stokes has managed to save that site for public use, for public ownership in the provision of health services, which was never planned under a Labour government. And that's a really good thing.

**A** Amelia 25:17

Thank you, Jeffrey and Rory. Okay, next question.

**R** Rory Amon 25:22

Look, I've come here to be asked questions. So I'm gonna cede my question to the floor for later on.

**A** Amelia 25:28

Okay, fine. Hillary?

**R** Rory Amon 25:32

I'd like to ask Rory as well. With the New South Wales LNP government, should it get it back into power, would it deliver 100% of the school resourcing standard across all NSW schools?

**R** Rory Amon 25:54

Hillary, I mean, we're on pre poll yesterday, you could have asked that question then. But that's okay. So look, that's a that's a really complex system. You've got private schools, which received funding out of Gonski. You've got public schools, which receive it under the standard that you're referring to. I think the more money we can put into schools, the better. And so absolutely, I think if we can get more money into our schools, then I will absolutely support that.

**J** Jacqui Scruby 26:19

Okay, Jacqui, who would you like to ask your question to?

**J** Jacqui Scruby 26:24

My question is to Rory. So, something that came up at the last forum, and I think there may be questions on it today, regarding drawing attention to your voting record. In particular, three votes in council where I feel I would have voted the other way with the community values. They are a motion to condemn Pep 11, which councillors voted for but you voted against...



A Amelia 26:46

Can I just jump in? Does everyone here know what Pep 11 is? Okay, can you just in 20 seconds, just do a quick overview of Pep 11? Because if you don't know what it is, then you have no idea what she's about to talk about

J Jacqui Scruby 27:08

So Pep 11 is a permit for exploration and to drill for oil and gas off our coastline, a little bit in New South Wales State waters, but also the majority of it in federal waters. It stretches from Newcastle all the way down along the coast towards Bondi. It's had a bit of a roller coaster ride in the federal election. Scott Morrison, I would argue he was under pressure from the the TEALS, including Zali Steggall, decided to can the permit, however, that was then challenged in the federal court by the proponents Asset energy, and now it is a live issue.

A Amelia 27:47

And when you say it's a live issue, what does that mean?

J Jacqui Scruby 27:51

It means that it is currently back with the joint authority, which is both the federal government and the New South Wales government to determine its future. I would argue there is a role for state government to legislate to try and prevent that as well.

A Amelia 28:05

Okay, and so what was your question to Rory?

J Jacqui Scruby 28:08

So my question to Roy was about his voting record and to give him an opportunity to say why he voted against condemning Pep 11, why he voted against Northern Beaches council gambling harm minimization policy, and why he seconded a motion to look to explore either a park or statue or structure to be named after Tony Abbott.

R Rory Amon 28:35

So let me answer that question by quoting what a recent media publication said on all the items that have just been raised. And what that media publication said was the statements made by the leaflet which you just heard, repeated now are misleading to the point of dishonesty. Now, let me respond to each individual..No, its my answer, please. There are three

issues that have been raised here. The first issue is this, the idea that there was a proposal to erect a statue or monument to Tony Abbott, is absurd. There was never any such proposal. The motion that came before Council in 2019, was the motion which said, which council said, let's look at ways in which we can recognize the fact that we not only had a prime minister, but a premier from the Northern Beaches during the exact same period of time. And what that said was to explore looking at things that can be named be it a park or in an amenities building or whatever it might be. And such was the nature of that motion, that passed with Mayor Reagan's casting vote. Mayor Reagan who was independent himself, who saw beyond the politics that these were two liberals and said, it's actually pretty cool that we had a premier and a prime minister irrespective of what they believe in that area. And he used his casting vote to actually see that progress. Then what happened was counsel ultimately said, You know what, it's all too hard. We're not going to do anything and nothing's happened. And that's been a decision. And for people to put around that there has been a proposal to explore erecting a monument or a statue to Tony Abbott is quite frankly, absurd. But not only that it's coming from people but it climate 200, who campaign on platforms of integrity and honesty, who are being fundamentally dishonest.

R

Rory Amon 30:14

Now to the second point about the Pep 11 license. During that debate, I said, and I'll quote, the sentiment behind this motion is valuable and worthwhile. And I encourage any counselor concerned about this issue to lobby the relevant level of government. But what we need to do is focus on our bread and butter. And we need to start dealing with the issues with which we have the authority to deal. And after that time, and before that time, I lobbied the federal member for Mackellar, and the at that time, the Federal Liberal National Government cancelled the Pep 11 license. What we've seen since the federal liberal member for Mackellar lost office, was Pep 11 is now back on the table under a Labour government. So Pep 11 is on the cards. The New South Wales Government has always opposed Pep 11. They've said they will now, because Labour's put it back on the table, it's in Commonwealth waters, they will introduce legislation to ban any gas infrastructure through state waters. That doesn't prevent Pep11 going ahead, it can still happen, but no infrastructure can go through state waters.

R

Rory Amon 31:09

And then on the third one of the gambling harm minimization policy - what climate 200 and other independent candidates don't say, again, highlighting their complete lack of integrity and honesty is they don't say that in December 2017 I voted on council to cap poker machine licenses on the northern beaches. Then a policy came back to council in mid 2018. And that policy was a 23 page document which said there is nothing Council can do other than write letters. And at that time, I said the state government needs to do more on this issue. And people should lobby them to do just that. And I'm proud to be part of a Perrotet government, which is introducing the most impactful gambling reforms this nation has ever seen, has ever seen. And that's a very good thing. But not only that, beyond the climate 200 flyer in the context of this motion, which went before Council on May 2018. It was in the shadow of the tragic suicide of a local father, who was a victim of problem gambling, and an independent candidate saw fit to post on social media, linking me personally to that tragic suicide. And to me that shows a complete lack of integrity. It shows complete dishonesty because it ignores everything that I've just spoken about.

**J** Jacqui Scruby 32:17

Rory, I fundamentally disagree with that statement. The only thing I will get you to do is the media outlet that you were quoting, you have to acknowledge that Dale is a member of the Liberal Party, and it's the Northern Beaches advocate. So please, just at least.

**R** Rory Amon 32:32

Well look I think everyone can see the records for themselves. The council minutes are public documents. And you can see the minutes, you can watch the video I've quoted to you, verbatim, the motion passed by council and paraphrased it. I've quoted for you verbatim what I said on Pep 11. And so a media outlet has said one thing and I've given you direct reference to the council documents. And so for people to take things out of context, for people to take things out of this sense and setting in which they were set, knowing full well they've done that, in circumstances where people are sick of grubby, dirty, nasty, negative politics. People want to hear about a positive plan. They want to hear about what's going to happen in the future, not what people were fighting back fighting about which happened in the past or was said to have happened in the past.

**A** Amelia 33:15

Jeffrey, you were you were flagging me. Did you have a comment you wanted to make as well?

**J** Jeffrey Quinn 33:21

Just that, as it's in before the courts. I've been to ask not to speak about Pep 11. And that it is a federal issue that we really need to get that through that everyone understands that it's got nothing to do with the state at the moment. It's in front of the courts. And so we need to acknowledge the separation of powers. And I'm asked by the party not to talk about it.

**A** Amelia 33:48

So Jeffrey, are you saying that whoever is elected at a state level has absolutely no input or sway in any of the Pep 11 decisions or conversations?

**J** Jeffrey Quinn 34:00

At the moment? Yes.

**J** Jacqui Scruby 34:02

Okay. Can I just answer that and clarify, I would agree with you in some ways and disagree with you and others, the state has certain jurisdiction over the infrastructure within the state. And

that's where my real focus is.

**A** Amelia 34:15

Okay, we're gonna move on to questions from our audience. So I would love to see a show of hands We'll start with you just here. Do we have a microphone? Who's your question to?

**H** Hilary Green 34:47

Or it's to Rory and I'm Miranda Korzy. I'm the Greens counselor for Pittwater. I just like to point out that they It was a motion that I put up at Council early last year to protect the site at Mona Vale for public health facilities. And Rory with another counselor amended that motion to remove the protection for the public footprint of the former hospital, that's been the acute services and emergency services. And Rory moved to remove the protection for the footprint for public hospital to be rebuilt there. So I'm just wondering, Rory, why did you do that? I should also say, I've been a member of the Save Mona Vale hospital committee for a long time. And the community has campaigned for a long time now to restore acute and emergency services that...

**A** Amelia 35:46

We need to get to the point of the question.

**R** Rory Amon 35:48

So the question was, why did I moved to do that? And Councillor Korzy, you were in the meeting, and in the meeting Counselor Gencher and myself moved amendment to say that Mona Vale hospital site remain in public hands for the use of public services. And you can look up the minutes now, and I challenge you to do it, because Council resolved that Mona Vale hospital site be left in public ownership for the use of public services. Yes, it did. So the Mona Vale hospital site and and I invite someone to have to pull it up on their phone...

**A** Amelia 36:19

So just so we don't have you two slinging and slanging at each other is there somewhere where we can go look up?

**R** Rory Amon 36:25

Counselor Korzy, if you give us the date of the meeting, people on their phones will be able to look it up. And yet again, they'll be able to see the facts of the matter and not distortions and misrepresentations.

A Amelia 36:36  
Okay, so we're having a disagreement here.

J Jacqui Scruby 36:42  
I'm happy to put them on my website. Okay, a link. That's right. Okay.

A Amelia 36:47  
Thank you. All right. Thank you for your question. Our next question. Yes. Okay. This lovely lady over here, please. Let us know who is your question to? To Jacqui? O

A Amelia 37:04  
Anne Dickson, ALP member and Avalon resident. This week, or, a few days ago, this leaflet appeared in our postbox. Basically, it's a leaflet attacking Rory Amon. When I looked at the fine print, I see that it's been authorized by a Byron Fay, I think, from the climate 200 office in Potts Point. Now, we all, I'm sure we all want to see more integrity in politics and more civility too. So I think that if you want integrity, and you have to preach it. So I would like to ask Jacqui, did you give permission for this rather nasty little pamphlet to be circulated?

A Amelia 38:06  
I'm sorry, I'm sorry. Just sorry. To everyone out here. They can't hear the question. Jackie, do you mind repeating the question

J Jacqui Scruby 38:14  
The question from Anne was she showed a pamphlet that was in everybody's letterboxes. And it's she described it as nasty? I would I would agree. It's authorized by climate 200. It's what I'd say is attacking Rory. So you know, reflects on my campaign, and obviously, as I'm endorsed by climate 200, it's obvious that it was to support my campaign. And she asked me, Did I approve it? Or did I see it? The answer is no, I didn't. And I agree it is nasty. And I've said that off record to Rory and I've said it publicly as well. And it's in that same article that Dale wrote in the Northern Beaches advocate as well. I think the thing with third party campaigners is that, you know, they don't control me, which I always keep saying around climate 200. They don't control me. I also don't control them. I didn't see the, the, I don't like the coloring. And to be honest, it looks like you know, with respect to labor, because I don't mean this in a bad way. But the colorings use of red and black, you know, trigger a labor, you know, instinct at first before you read the authorization. And I don't like it, and I wouldn't have approved it and I've run a positive campaign with you know....

A Amelia 39:27

 Amelia 39:27


So did you.... Did you approve it?

 Jacqui Scruby 39:29


No, I didn't approve it, haven't seen it, don't like it, although everything in it is true. It's you know, it's laid on with a nasty comment as well. And, so they're separate. They're separate issues going on here. So I don't want to conflate different issues. The answer is I didn't see it. It is truthful. Otherwise it would be defamatory, but I don't approve it. And but I am happy to sit here and I do believe it's part of integrity, which is calling out voting records and being able to speak to that and also giving Rory the opportunity to talk to it, which is why I asked him that question to contextualize.

 Amelia 40:04

Okay, Rory

 Rory Amon 40:05


And as the material was about me. What you haven't said is that in the same article where I quoted what the Northern Beaches advocates said about the flyer, you also said to that journalist that you knew something was coming out, but that you hadn't seen it. So you knew something naughty was coming. But you didn't bother to ask your own donor, what it was. You knew something was happening, but you said, I don't need to know about that. And the last person who was reported saying something like that had to resign from Parliament and as Premier of the State.

 Jeffrey Quinn 40:37

Ok children, let's calm it down. Let's get back on to real issues, because this is rubbish. This is what we need to talk about what's happening in climate, what's happening on the northern beaches with the sand getting washed away, and why we don't have a hospital at Mona Vale anymore.

 Amelia 40:53

Okay. Thank you, Jeffrey. So I would like, thank you for that question. I would like to. Yes, I can see a lady up the back there. Have we got the microphone? Who is your question to?

 Sarah Turnbull 41:09

Actually it's to everyone. Really, it concerns the hospital, I appreciate what Rory was saying - the Northern Beaches hospital. I appreciate what Rory was saying before, that he has had a good experience there. I know a lot of people who really haven't. And this is no offense to

anyone. Obviously, there are some very good people and very good departments there. But I have very close friends who have had...What would the candidates do about Northern Beaches Hospital? Firstly, are they aware of problems there? And secondly, what would they do to improve the hospital for locals up here?

A

Amelia 41:57

Ok, I'm gonna give everyone a short opportunity to answer that. So who would like to go first?

J

Jacqui Scruby 42:02

So yes, I'm aware of the issues inherent with the public private partnership, there will be issues and we've had a New South Wales parliamentary inquiry into the hospital with recommendations that haven't been acted on. So, and also new information about the transparency of the deed concerning it. So what I would do, would be number one, get those recommendations acted on, potentially call for another inquiry or at least the auditor to get in there and increase the transparency of those services once we have better defined knowledge of what's going on, look to, you know, look to take steps to rectify that. Okay. Thank

A

Amelia 42:36

Thank you. Rory.

R

Rory Amon 42:39

Sarah, that's a good question. And there are many people who always have horrible experiences at hospital. One thing I'll say and I know you haven't raised it in your question, but it's been raised, which is the Public Private Partnership model. 20 years for the public hospital and it will revert to state run, 40 years for the private part of the hospital, and then it will revert to state run. We now have across the northern beaches, more health services and we've ever had before. I think where there are issues that need to be dealt with. But in terms of parliamentary inquiry, I'm sick and tired of hearing politicians talk about what's wrong with the health system, we need to listen to the experts. The parliamentary inquiry that's taken place was a political inquiry run by greens and labour in the upper house. What we need is to listen to the clinicians. And the clinicians have advised that the model we have is a good model. Now where there are problems, yes, let's address them, and let's fix them up. In the absence of a specific example. It's hard for me to kind of grapple with that question, but I'm happy to chat about them

A

Amelia 43:38

For those of you that were at the health debate here two weeks ago, where we had three health experts at the conversation, the hospitals was a very, very hot topic. And I would say that they weren't happy with how that hospital was being run at all.

R

Rory Amon 43:54

And I wasn't at the forum, but the decisions about where hospitals are, they are not political decisions. They are decisions which are made on advice from the clinicians from the local area health districts. Politicians don't sit around a table and say let's put a hospital here, let's put a hospital there. They take the advice from the experts like we did during COVID, like we did during that three year period. And that's what they've done with the Mona Vale and the Northern Beaches, hospital sites.

A

Amelia 44:18

Okay. No calling out please. Hilary, what would you like to say?

H

Hilary Green 44:23

Yes, I am aware that many people have had unfortunate experiences up at the Northern Beaches hospital, particularly those from the public healthcare system, in the public arena. And there are no public clinics in that hospital. So we would advocate also for a maternity ward back down at the new Mona Vale Hospital. We advocate that the Northern Beaches hospital be put back into public hands. There's a precedent for that, it happened in Port Macquarie because the public private partnership there obviously didn't work and, and, so that happened. So that would be our plan, our longer the plan. But our first plan would be to get a public emergency and acute services with maternity back down in Mona Vale.

A

Amelia 45:26

Okay, thank you Hillary.

J

Jeffrey Quinn 45:31

Well, this is a very closely held issue for me, I've lived here all my life and my grandparents lived here. And we used to, they used to always worry about dying on the road. And when you get back up to the Northern Beaches hospital, if you're lucky enough to get there in time from Avalon or Palmy, then what sort of service you get. Some of its brilliant, especially if you're a private patient. Some of it is brilliant, especially if you're a private patient. You get triaged. Initially you got us really blatantly and then moved into different areas.

A

Amelia 46:14

The question was what you would do about it.

J

Jeffrey Quinn 46:16

Okay, so what I would do as the local MHA would be to advocate for a level five emergency and



Okay, so what I would do as the local MLA would be to advocate for a level five emergency and acute hospital based at Mona Vale on the site, which becomes a medical precinct for the people on the coast. The Northern Beaches hospital is in French's forest, everyone, and this is the coast, we're a long way from it. We'll also advocate to fix the.. So we've got a whole range again, of outpatient services. We'll do more than restore the five dialysis beds that were taken away by the liberals. We'll put in an extra five, so we've got 10. And then we can judge in terms of what we need. We know that at the moment, there's 60 people on the waiting list.

A Amelia 47:07

And how realistic do you think it would be to put a hospital like that in Mona Vale, considering they've just spent so much on a hospital in French's Forest?

J Jeffrey Quinn 47:16

If you look at the drawer area of the hospital that French's forest, it's drawing from Manly out into Cremorne, and then up into the, up around the North Sydney area, then as far west, as in some cases Dundas. So you're looking at a huge area, so it will still get business, but from different drawing areas. The northern, the Mona Vale hospital is needed for the people of Narrabeen, as far south as Dee Why and definitely the rest of Pittwater, because they don't have the right services anymore. Regardless of who the clinicians are.

A Amelia 47:59

Thank you for your question. All right. I think I've got a mic in hand over here. So what, what's your question? Oh, who is your question to I should say,

C Charlie Shea 48:11

Good afternoon. My name is Greg Pride. I'm a Pittwater resident of 44 years. I'm not a member of a political party. Firstly, I just say congratulations to all the candidates for having the various...

A Amelia 48:22

Sir, I thank you, but I need you to ask a question?

A Amelia 48:51

My question is, on page two of Sydney Morning Herald yesterday, it was reported that Jacqui had lodged a protest to the electoral Commissioner about aspects of the liberal party's how to vote posters, at least. So principally, I'd like to ask Jacqui and Rory for their response, but not exclusively.

J

Jacqui Scruby 49:14

So in relation to the poster, it's a poster that says you just need to Number number one, and you just need to write number one. For those who don't know, in this state, we've got optional preferential voting rather than mandatory preferential voting, which means if people choose just to vote one against a candidate, and that candidate is not in the top two candidates, then their vote expires. So all the, you know, they may wish to have had someone else ahead of the top two their vote expires. I just misquoted myself sorry. They may have wanted to use their vote to go further than just the one candidate they put down, If they had the knowledge that once that candidates knocked out, their vote would either go in the bin, or if they number every box, then second choice, third choice can then be applied to the candidates remaining. My problem with the poster is that I find it to be misleading and deceptive. While it has a small branding of the Liberal Party in the corner, it's not typically branded like the Liberal Party. So to anyone walking past it, it looks like it's actually from the Electoral Commission. And I believe that number one, it's in breach of the act. And number two, that it's fundamentally trying to trick the average person into not utilizing the full capacity of their vote. And I find that to be undemocratic, which is why I'm challenging it.

A

Amelia 50:45

I might also disclose as well, it definitely is in my benefit. I'm not going to sit here and lie, that I will probably be relying on preference flows, as will all the candidates, particularly Rory, will be relying on preference flows as well. So I want to acknowledge that. But I also do believe that everyone should number every box. And you know, I've been talking about that for a long time. Rory likes my Instagram posts, I've got one on there from about four years ago saying the same thing.

A

Amelia 51:15

Okay. And just to be clear, so we do have the choice, we can just number one box, or we can number all the boxes and for full democratic expression if you're numbering all the boxes, then you will get more democratic expression than if you're numbering one box. Rory?

R

Rory Amon 51:32

In New South Wales for decades, we've had optional preferential voting, that's your right, you have a right to number one box, two boxes, three boxes, four boxes, up to however many candidates there are, you can number every single box if you want to, that's in the legislation. The signs that you might have seen out, and you might have seen photos of, they've been authorized properly by the Liberal Party, they have a Liberal Party logo, and they were approved by the Electoral Commission. So I'm not here to talk about these mechanical issues, I want to talk about the issues actually, the issues that actually matter to our community. This is a boring mechanical issue. It's approved, it's a part of your democratic right to vote one, what is misleading is for volunteers at a polling station to tell people they must number every box or their vote is invalid. So let's just let people do their jobs. Let's let people run their campaigns. I'm not gonna run a commentary on other campaigns. I'm gonna run my campaign, we're gonna talk about what we want to do in people that are not some boring mechanical issue.

A Amelia 52:34

Okay, but I think it is helpful for everyone to understand that they do have those choices. So, Hilary, yes. Would you like to make a quick comment? And then we'll move on to another question.

H Hilary Green 52:36

I just like to make it clear that the greens can only afford about three corflutes per booth. So we have no time to muck around with ambiguous statements. Thanks.

A Amelia 53:00

Ok we have a question. There's someone with a microphone over here.

A Audience 53:03

My question is to Rory. Given the chronic shortage of public school teachers, on Northern Beaches, I'm a high school teacher myself, why does the Liberal government continue to refuse a genuine pay rise for public school teachers, when the public system is finding it increasingly difficult to attract teachers to the profession? We've seen in the papers recently that private schools have been offering, you know, \$20,000 above the starting wage the public schools can offer.

R Rory Amon 53:36

Thank you for your service as a teacher. I think teachers should be paid a lot more money. In my journeys over the past few months talking to people out on the streets, I met a teacher, Vanessa down in North Narrabeen, as a primary school teacher, and I said, what are the issues? We were speaking together and I said, look, what are the main issues that you're concerned about? And she said, look, the issue that I find the hardest is the paperwork, the bureaucracy, the reporting standards, the stuff that... this is just what she told me. And so she said, we need to cut that red tape to make it easy for us to go in the classroom and teach. They're the issues that I'm hearing.. And I mean, I think teachers should be paid a lot more. And I'll always advocate for people who provide those services to be paid more. What we also need to acknowledge is that there are various other frontline services as well that we should pay more to as well.

J Jeffrey Quinn 54:26

And what's your government do?

A Amelia 54:29

We got emailed in some questions. And I did promise that I would ask one or two questions from the people that emailed in. So I'm just going to throw a quick email question through before our next audience question. This comes from a Dr. Jonathan King. Jacqui, could you please explain why an independent would be any more useful in state parliament than a member of a political party like the liberals who have represented Pittwater

J Jacqui Scruby 54:57

Thanks for that question. Look probably leading on from what Rory said, as well, so he's given his opinion today and as Jeff just pointed out, it's not really about Rory's opinion, but it's really about what his party's standing for. In terms of what an independent can do. So as an independent, I can always represent, you know, the community, what the experts say, and have a vote that represents that every time, rather than, and I've witnessed in federal politics, there's a pager wall...To be honest, I don't know if this happens in state, you walk through the security, there's a wall of pagers, everyone from a party gets their pager, or they get told how to vote on every single vote. So what an independent can do particularly in a minority government, and that's what we're facing in New South Wales in the next week. It's also what we have now in New South Wales. That a strong crossbench and those who give supplying confidence, have an incredible influence, both on you know, every vote really, but also at that negotiating table in the next couple of weeks to negotiate things that matter and give Pittwater a voice, both on local issues, and also everyone here. We care about local issues, but we also care about issues in the state, and it will give us an opportunity to have Pittwater as a seat at that table in a minority government to really have some influence.

A Amelia 56:13

Thank you, Jacqui. Oh, a quick comment. Yep.

J Jeffrey Quinn 56:20

Jackie has obviously never been part of a party process...

A Amelia 56:25

Do not make personal slings please...

J Jeffrey Quinn 56:27

Ok. Well, the person who just spoke before. Like, all of our policies come from grassroots levels, and they're talked about and they're discussed in branches, then they go to caucus, and they're debated vociferously in caucus. The decisions are made in a democratic way. A party process is much more dedicated and disciplined than any of us ever know. And I've been lucky to experience that, in the last 12 years, to see how policy is derived. It's not a matter of 'oh

look, some guy in the corners decided to do something'. It's come from the grassroots of the people who are part of the Labour Party, and we exist in the community. We're not just some fabrication or some sign in the corner that says, Oh, you're a Labour Party. We're a group of people who care about progressive issues, and we make a difference.

**J** Jacqui Scruby 57:34

And Jeffrey I just wanted to add to that, that's true, and everyone will get a government. But the role of an independent is to make good policy better, to progress policies. And we've seen that in the current New South Wales Government with Alex Green and Greg Piper, who have not only pushed to make reforms, but also, you know, passed laws as well as improving bits of legislation as they come through in terms of amendments and pushing good policy.

**A** Amelia 57:57

Okay, I think we've got both our points across. Okay, moving on our question over here.

**A** Audience 58:05

Hi, my name is Miki. I'm a Clareville resident. I think we see quite often some of our greatest community consultation happen prior to an election. I would like to ask each candidate really quickly what their plan is for engaging with communities, greater than just community groups, if they are elected.

**A** Amelia 58:29

Okay. Who would like to go first?

**R** Rory Amon 58:32

I'm happy to go first. Okay. Over the past five years on council, I've done just that. So not only do I consult with and have I consulted with the various community groups, but I've run my own surveys, my own petitions, I'm out every day, I'm out every weekend, I'm talking to people, I'm hearing what they have to say. You're distilling that in your head and in your thought process. And then you go out and represent people. So that's something that if I'm privileged to be elected as the member for Pittwater I'll continue to do, as I've done for the past five years on council,

**A** Amelia 59:04

Thank you, Rory, who would like to go next?

**H** William Green 59:08

**H** Hilary Green 59:08

Well as the recent candidate, I've been inundated with emails, which I've tried to respond to as carefully as I can, within the Greens context. And I appreciate the newsletters from both Sophie, and from Rory, Thank you. And I think they're useful. I would also like to have appreciate or enjoy more social interaction with people - politics in the pub, for example, townhall meetings, where we can all be part of it, just like here today. It's wonderful, but you're right. It only happens before elections.

**A** Amelia 59:53

Thanks, Jacqui. How would you engage more with the community and listen to them better?

**J** Jacqui Scruby 59:58

As Rory said and this is a model that community backed independents espouse is to get out more in the community. As Hilary said, more town halls, more listening. And then for me, it's making some sort of fundamental changes to the way we do consultations. So firstly, there is a role for deliberative democracy, which is sort of a nine month program where you engage a cross section of the community, usually 70 people to work on a project. That's been done in South Australia, that's something I'm very supportive of. And secondly, particularly for this community, there's an opportunity to amend the Local Government Act, to basically give the opportunity for this community to have a say in council and whether they want to de-amalgamate or not. I'm, at this stage, I'm not de-amalgamation, per se. But I am for making the specific legislative changes that brings more community back into into planning decisions in particular. And then finally, just practical things, working with council. I think Avalon Place Plan has been a disaster. It's meant to be a trial, there's no way to make submissions, there's a rec center there where they should have something set up, and the ability to make submissions in person and online. So, there will be I know, it's coming. But you know, it should have been done properly from the outset. So I think just being an advocate, and you know, I won't wash my hands saying it's not my jurisdiction, it's sort of working with all levels of government to, you know, to be a community member and include everyone in the consultation process.

**A** Amelia 1:01:25

Thank you, Jacqui. Jeffrey, how would you engage more with the community if you were elected.

**J** Jeffrey Quinn 1:01:33

Since the time of Pittwater we've never had a Labour government? So we've never really realized the benefits of a community based caring government. Who said that? (Inaudible audience question). Have you been there? Have you been? Have you seen one here? Really? Well, then you would know what happens in seats that are governed or are Labor Party governments, where we encourage community groups to talk to each other and to our parliamentarians. But also, we get down at the grassroots level and allow structures to, to grow that create involvement in the community, whether it's youth trying to accomplish new

systems, whether it's live music, whether it's getting people out and about and willing to become part of a community, where we've got facility to do it. So we open up new avenues where people can get together and enjoy making things happen of a positive nature, whether it's swimming groups who want to change local areas into aquatic marine parks. There's a petition over there if you'd like to sign it at some stage. And whether it's school groups, whether it's encouraging P&Cs to become more vocal and more involved in getting funding back from governments that take it away.

**A** Amelia 1:02:55

Okay, thank you, Jeffrey. All right. We've got time for a couple more questions. I can see one way up the back there is that are we able to get a microphone over there? Yep, here we come. You're doing really well, guys. We've probably got about five or 10 more minutes. We'll do a couple more questions. And then we'll do closing statements. Yes,

**J** Jonathan Woods 1:03:13

My name is Jonathan Woods. I run Crazzgot's pizza in North Avalon.

**A** Amelia 1:03:17

Hello! I love your pizzas.

**J** Jonathan Woods 1:03:18

Thank you. But I haven't heard much discussion about small business. Love to hear what you're going to do about small business and how you're gonna help.

**A** Amelia 1:03:26

Okay, thank you. All right. Well, we'll fly through. I'm sure all of you would like to have a comment on that. But let's make them short and sweet. Who would like to go first?

**R** Rory Amon 1:03:36

I'm happy to go first. And it was, was it John. We met on the bus stop the other day, didn't we? So you run a pizzeria up here and you work in the city? So look, I think the the overarching principle here is you need to have a strong economy for small business to do the best that it can do. And my position is that the best party to provide the strongest economy for our state is New South Wales. And so we have been across the board with targeted cost of living measures, we're be providing back to school vouchers, providing energy rebates, providing the kids futures funds, or things of that kind. When you have a strong economy where cost of living is manageable, more people are going to come in your doors because they've got more disposable income. And so I think that at a high level, we can get into the nitty gritty of place

planning and strategic planning at a council level, but at a high level we need a strong economy. And in that context, we need to decide who's best placed to give us that strong economy. A liberal or a Labour government?

A

Amelia 1:04:34

Thank you, Rory. All right, who would like to go next?

H

Hilary Green 1:04:39

Well, with a transition to a renewable economy there will be plenty of opportunities for new businesses to emerge all over the place, even in Pittwater. And the Greens will be happy to assist with the setting up of those sorts of new Businesses...(audience question) In what way? Well, there's knowledge. There's, the state has a triple A rating. So there's money around to assist in that way. There's plenty of grants that could be pushed in that direction.

J

Jacqui Scruby 1:05:28

So I do agree with Roy that a strong economy is the way to go. I would disagree that, you know, cash handouts at the moment when we're facing inflationary pressures, is a great way to manage the economy. And that's not money going to, you know, to the pizza shop. And so I think that's the greatest risk that was in the paper today, the things that people care about here are their mortgages going up. And if we want them to spend at the local pizza shop, we don't add to inflationary pressures. The second aspect is practical things as well, like I know, Sally's set up, and others are starting to set up the chambers of commerce again, which are a great way for businesses to communicate very directly with MPs, and also disseminate information and knowledge. And then in terms of structural reform, I think we need structural reform, particularly and I know this might not help the pizza shop, but we need to look at payroll tax, a tax that penalizes um, you know, medium sized businesses to operate and and constantly be looking for reforms that will support small business.

A

Amelia 1:06:30

Okay, thank you, Jacqui. Jeffrey, do you have a comment?

J

Jeffrey Quinn 1:06:33

Yes, please. This is a really important issue for me because I own a small business. But one of the things that we found is we look into taxes and levels that New South Wales has the greatest level of taxation. So, and we're going to have new taxes introduced like a forever tax on the family home, we're going to have things where we see electricity prices keep increasing. So Labour's going to look at how the cost of living affects families. And that will have an ongoing effect on how small businesses work, because our aim is to get the economy moving again. So the rhetoric is that New South Wales is going along fine. Why do we have to sell Sydney Water if that's the case? Any examples of that? So we want a fresh start, where we're not tolling



building roads, selling them to companies, big companies, and then having to pay lots of tax. If your normal guy driving a car has to pay a huge amount of money on tolls every week, how are they going to go and spend money in the local businesses that need it. And we all know that small businesses are the backbone for our economy. So we've got to get the road and the rail and the bus platforms working properly. For us, for our people. Now, that's not just going to be the people who live here. It's got to happen across the state because other people come here and spend their money. They need to come to vibrant shops and that will re invigorate our local economy.

**J** Jeffrey Quinn 1:08:10

Okay, so let's wrap it up. Jeffrey, I want a couple more questions before we finish up. It's really important. All right one more point and then we'll move on.

**J** Jeffrey Quinn 1:08:20

Well, I want to look at GST and how that's distributed within the state. Because since Howard introduced the GST, I've become a tax collector. And I don't like doing that. So I want to see what we can do about how we can make GST fairer on the small business person, so that our community has more money to spend. Thank you.

**A** Amelia 1:08:46

Okay, thank you, Jeffrey. Okay, yeah, we've got one question over here. Second, last question. Will one from the gentleman at the end and then we'll wrap up. You're all being so well behaved today. I'm very impressed. You're either all riveted. I'm gonna say you're all riveted. I feel like you're riveted. That's what I'm gonna say, Oh, you're melting also. Okay. All right. Well, these guys are the ones in the hot seat. So you know, come on, they're getting roasted literally and figuratively.

**C** Charlie Shea 1:09:15

Yeah, my name is Charlie Shea. I'm just a local resident. This question is for Rory. Rory, given the recent independent audit review of the allocation of funds for the bushfires and the scathing audit report on that. If the Liberals get back into power, and if you get elected, what will you personally do to make sure that this never happens again?

**R** Rory Amon 1:09:39

Charlie, thank you for that question. New South Wales has one of the strongest ICAC's in the country. Since this government came to office in 2011 ICAC funding has been doubled, which is at triple the rate of inflation. I'll continue to fight to make sure that that funding increases so that ICAC can investigate issues like this, and actually ensure that people who have done the wrong thing are brought to account. I think the fact that we've had a number of people resign

their posts as ministers, some were in the wrong and some weren't. But I think the fact that we have an independent body that will pursue these things to the n'th degree is a good thing. And I think we need to ensure we continue funding it so that it can continue do that work.

**C** Charlie Shea 1:10:26

I guess the issue we all have though, Rory is that we just saw that ICAC doesn't really have jurisdiction over those sorts of decisions. They're about legalities. And we're talking more about integrity and process in terms of how taxpayer funds are actually allocated in times of need like that.

**R** Rory Amon 1:10:46

Charlie, and I think we need to be really clear about how we spend your money. Government needs to be really clear about how they're spending your money, how they're allocating it and the criteria they're using.

**A** Amelia 1:10:56

And do you think they're doing a good job of that at the moment?

**R** Rory Amon 1:10:59

Well I think in this case, there were clearly issues. But where you have I mean, we see, for example, all the time, we appoint ambassadors, who are former politicians overseas, people seem to accept that, because that is clearly the way things are done. But what needs to be made clear, is when money's being allocated, that it's allocated appropriately, where things are brazen and blatant, then the rules should be changed. And people should be given powers to deal with these things. Look and Charlie, as someone who actually went down there in 2019, down to the south coast, I've seen directly what happened to those communities down there. Community facilities, roads, houses, people's lives, and livelihoods completely decimated. And the idea to me that some people were treated differently to me is not acceptable.

**A** Amelia 1:11:45

Thank you. All right, we're gonna move on to our next our last question over here. And then we'll have our closing statements

**P** Philip Crenigan 1:11:55

On behalf of everybody Thank you for cooking in the sun. I've been reflecting for the last hour that this is a state election. Whilst there are four local participants the reality is I cannot ignore what is being proposed by the state, major parties who ultimately have the resources and are

sharing with us in the Telegraph today exactly what they're going to do. My question is therefore..

**A** Amelia 1:12:25  
To who is your question?

**J** Jacqui Scruby 1:12:26  
My question to all the panel is...an independent candidate has no policy, has potentially influence, but potentially, will have no voice. What is the risk to Pittwater of losing a party with a voice over the last 15 or 20 years versus somebody who, as in the previous examples, was simply expressing a particular point of view and opinion on many issues? If you're on the crossbench, you've got to be very wise, you've got to be across many issues and therefore my question to all of the parties, its more a State Question, what is the risk of actually having an independent crossbench? Okay, thank you.

**A** Amelia 1:13:15  
Thank you. Someone yelled out there. We want to try something different. Just um, okay, we're getting some heckling now. All right. I'm getting ready for some heckling. Now.

**R** Rory Amon 1:13:25  
I'm happy to kick this one off. The risk you have is that you have exactly what we saw happen in the federal election, we lost \$75 million of Wakehurst Parkway funding, and we saw Pep 11 put back on the table. And that's without us having a voice at the table of the federal government. What we will see here is that exact same thing. So after this election, we will have a Liberal or Labour government. That's the practical reality. And up here the last time we had a Labour government, we didn't get any infrastructure investment, we didn't get any upgrades to schools, we didn't get any public transport services improved. We got development in Warriewood that shouldn't have been put there in flood prone areas. And we got the two towers in Dee Why. So the risk we run is more density, less services and less infrastructure development. And that is the practical reality of what we risk if we do not have one of the major parties here. If you want to ensure we protect Pittwater vote for this guy (gestures to Jeffrey Quinn), or vote for me, that's that's the practical reality.

**A** Amelia 1:14:25  
Jeffrey, would you like to respond to that? No. Okay, Hillary,

**H** Hilary Green 1:14:32  
I would please. Sorry. So okay, the \$75 million funding was removed from the Wakehurst

Parkway project because it actually didn't address the problem that it was designed for, which was to fix the flooding. So I agree that with the government that that should go back to the table for review, just like the Pep 11 thing has to go back for proper review. So the greens are not independent's. We are a progressive party of reform. We've had a very loud voice. You've all heard us. And we have achieved a lot while while we've been around. We have comprehensively researched policies. And they are very well advocated by some very, very clever people. Thank you.

A Amelia 1:15:27

Thank you. Okay, Jeffrey, you're back on. You're ready to answer.

J Jeffrey Quinn 1:15:32

I was in a state of shock that Rory said you should vote for me.

A Amelia 1:15:36

It's the heat, he's getting a bit of heat stroke. All right, here we go. (Inaudible audience heckling)

R Rory Amon 1:15:45

I'm sorry. Unlike, unlike Scott Morrison, I actually hold a hose. Thank you very much.

A Amelia 1:15:51

How many times have you pulled that line out Rory? This is a first time setup. All right, Jeffrey. Let's hear it.

R Rory Amon 1:15:59

I've never been to Hawaii either. Thank you.

A Amelia 1:16:04

Okay, so are we right with the microphones. Okay, off you go, Jeffrey.

J Jeffrey Quinn 1:16:10

We'll get away from holding your hoses. ? What we need to do is think about what do we want here? We've never had a labor rep here. I'm a local. I've lived here forever. My family is five or

six generations. I know the joint. I grew up loving it.

A

Amelia 1:16:30

But we need you to answer the question...Oh, he's forgotten the question. Okay. Let's move on.

J

Jacqui Scruby 1:16:36

Jackie. What I'd say is based on what Rory just said, then there's zero risk if he's if he's saying that the option everyone should go for his either vote for him or vote for Labour, then there is zero risk based on that. What there is, is an amazing opportunity, a historic one actually, where we have the, and it's most probable that there will be a minority government, and that I will be able to negotiate both on local issues and also on state issues as well, whether that be native forest logging, pokies, pushing reform to go better. Also local issues and Pep 11. There, there are loads of issues that can be negotiated on. And it's a great opportunity. Now, should there not be a minority government, although it is probable, we've seen at a federal level, actually the role that independent's play is huge. And, you know, I may say that even just the role of independents, in this seat as a candidate. what impact that has had in the last few weeks is phenomenal. So the the current government was pushing ahead with lizard rock. And despite, and you know, Rory and Rob Stokes and all the local representatives being against lizard rock being cleared for 450 houses. They were powerless until there was an independent challenge. And then we saw a backflip in order to neutralize us this election. Same goes for Pep 11. So I, you know, it was published that, you know, Pep 11 is not a State issue, I'm happy to have that debate. I think it is. But it was published that you know, that was Rob Stokes' position, he put it in Pittwater life. Within 12 days of me announcing I had a bill standing with Alex Greenwich and having worked also with Justin Field of the existing New South Wales parliament. 12 days later, again, the Liberal Party tried to neutralize that issue by coming out with copycat legislation. Now for me, that's a win, even just having an independent in this election race. So imagine what we can get done if we have an opportunity for me to represent the community and negotiate in the next couple of weeks, and then have that voice at the table for the rest of this parliamentary period.

A

Amelia 1:18:45

Thank you, Jacqui. All right, we're gonna wrap up now one minute closing statement, we're gonna go in the same order that we kicked off. So Jeffrey first, then Rory, Hilary, finishing with Jacqui, and then we'll get you all to the beach for a sunset swim, please.

J

Jeffrey Quinn 1:19:06

Well, you have a choice, and you have a chance to do something completely different and have a fresh start in this area with a labour rep. In a government that will create a charter for small businesses. So we can codify the New South Wales commitment to small business and make it really work for us. We'll look at how the bus services have been privatized and what we can do to make those services better again, so we can encourage people to come back and work in our systems. We will stop the privatization of Barrenjoey and national park, it will be completely put

out. We will make legislation and legislate so that Sydney Water and Hunter water can never be sold. Let that sink in. Because that's what's going to happen if we don't get a Labour government in. You get a labour person here, you've got someone at the table, someone who cares about here and who's willing not to fight, but to consult and to develop policy that really affects what we need here. All right, I'll wrap it up. So I'm Jeffrey Quinn. I'm a local who's lived here all his life, who votes labor, who cares about the people who teaches kids with dyslexia, and dyscalculia, who helps parents get a sense of peace of mind with their kids. So if I don't get elected, I'll still be helping the community. I'll still be on the small business councils, and I'll still work with our wonderful save Mona Vale hospital. But if I'm elected, I can do heaps more.

A

Amelia 1:20:55

Thank you, Jeffrey. Rory,

R

Rory Amon 1:20:59

thank you all for coming this afternoon. And it's been great to hear from all of you and your questions, because what this election comes down to is who you as a community think can best deliver for our community and for Pittwater. The best predictor of the future is the past. And I've spent the last five years on council delivering for you right here. Be it most recently, securing a council program to bridge the gap on soft plastics recycling, and council will now bridge the gap from the private sector to ensure that you can recycle your soft plastics. I've spent the last five years doing things like that on council. Rob Stokes has spent the past 16 years delivering for our community. And we've spoken about some of those things earlier this evening. And what I say to you is, a Liberal government is the best opportunity we have to ensure that we can keep delivering for Pittwater for the things that matter for us. My plan for Pittwater is positive, my plan for New South Wales is positive and I know that a reelected coalition government will continue moving this place forward for the betterment of all of us.

A

Amelia 1:22:03

Thank you, Rory. Hillary?

H

Hilary Green 1:22:07

Well, we all know, as I've said before, that The Greens have been advocating all Australians that the climate and environment are at great risk, and we have to do something about it. The evidence is now staring us in the face, and most people are waking up to it. So the Greens also will fight on social justice issues facing so many exemplified by the unfair distribution of the SRS funding, which is allocated on a fair basis for every student and public school students are chronically underfunded on that regard. And private school students are chronically over funded. Greens will address that situation so that our education system would improve, our health system would improve, renewable energy will improve. We will have a stronger voice at the tables if more people vote for us. Please vote for the greens in the lower house and the upper house.

H Hilary Green 1:23:13

Thank you, Hillary. Jacqui.

J Jacqui Scruby 1:23:19

Thanks, everyone. So I think this election, as I've said is a historic one, it's the chance to get an independent at the seat of the crossbench. And whichever party gets in making good policy better and pushing and representing for the community. Each and every time I vote, I will be voting for the community, I won't be leaving the room not to vote, I won't be following a party, you know, lying or toeing the party line. I'll be voting for what we want. And I'll be introducing legislation and negotiating on everything. So whether that's at a state level, whether it be native forests, climate change issues, whether it be at a local level, to fight over development, or to get more transparency and tighten the screws on everything from our hospital, to getting wakehurst Parkway fixed, to making sure we don't get more overdevelopment with the beaches link tunnel and calling for that report to be released. And also making sure our kids don't have to give up PSSA. Which is the sports program that has been going for decades and its at risk next term because the buses simply aren't showing up. There is so much we need to get done at a Pittwater level and also at a state level. And I'll be honored to represent the community to get that done.

A Amelia 1:24:27

Thank you, Jacqui. Well, everyone that concludes and wraps up our candidate debate today. Before we finish and leave I just want to remind everyone that early voting has already opened so if you can't make it next Saturday to vote, you can vote at three locations if you live in this area. Pittwater Presbyterian Church in Newport which is just behind the Coles, also Bassett Street in Mona Vale and the South Narrabeen Surf Lifesaving club. Next Saturday, voting day, you can vote up at Palm Beach kindy, Avalon rec-center, BarrenJoey high or might I recommend Avalon public school because the P&C is running democracy, sausage sizzle, and the Avalon band will be playing there. It's their 50th anniversary Avalon public school band is the oldest running band in New South Wales, they're going to be busking at 11 till 12pm. So there'll be a great vibe up there. Can you please all put your hands together for our candidates today? Put your hands up if you feel passionate about our beautiful pet water. Put your hands up if you feel more informed for voting next week. Oh yeah. And now put your hands together for Bookoccino and for Sally, and Ray for allowing us to hold such a great candidate debate today. Thank you all so much.

S Sally Bookoccino 1:26:02

Guys,