

Media Alert 6 September 2014: Newcastle & Charlestown By-election candidates to answer questions on planning

When: Thursday September 11th, 6.30pm

Where: Wesley Hall, 150 Beaumont St, Hamilton

What: Launch of *Planning for People – A Community Charter for Good Planning in NSW* (see attached)

Newcastle will get its first chance to see all candidates for the October 25th by-election next Thursday night at the Wesley Hall in Hamilton.

The event is the Hunter launch of the ***Planning for People – A Community Charter for Good Planning in NSW***.

The Charter has been developed by an alliance of community-based organisations who want the standard of planning and development approval to be lifted in NSW.

The Charter has been endorsed by several peak associations including the Better Planning Network, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, The National Trust of Australia (NSW), the Total Environment Centre, Australia ICOMOS (International Committee of Monuments and Sites), Our Land our Water our Future, the National Parks Association of NSW – as well as multiple Hunter-based community organisations.

Better Planning Network Spokesperson Corinne Fisher said: *“This Charter represents the bottom line for planning which will deliver fair outcomes for the community, for future generations and for the environment.”*

Nature Conservation Council CEO Kate Smolski said: *“The existing planning system is broken. It gives approvals to damaging major projects, like open cut coal mines on the edge of communities, in conflict with the best scientific evidence. It also green-lights smaller projects which cumulatively degrade the environment. We are proud to support this Charter which would protect people and the environment over industry profit.”*

National Trust CEO, Brian Scarsbrick said: *“The Charter is a step forward in properly valuing our heritage so that our sense of place, our sense of identity and our pride is maintained and nourished in our modern and functional world.”*

“We have a great set of speakers on the big issues in the Hunter for Thursday night .” said Ms Fisher. *“And we will be asking candidates for the by-elections in Newcastle and Charlestown to give us their thoughts on the Charter and planning in the Hunter.”*

For more information contact:

Better Planning Network, Corinne Fisher 0421 831 889

Nature Conservation Council of NSW, James Tremain, 0419 272 254

The National Trust of Australia (NSW), Graham Quint 0421 428 667

Candidates who are confirmed (in alphabetical order)

Newcastle By-election

Milton Caine, Christian Democratic Party

Tim Crakanthorp, ALP

Jacqueline Haines, Independent

Karen Howard, Independent

Michael Osborne, The Greens

Charlestown By-election

Jodie Harrison, ALP

Jane Oakley, The Greens

Rev. Dr Brian Tucker, Christian Democratic Party