

Questions from the 416 Group for Candidates in the Federal election to be held in May 2025

It has been said that 'all politics is local'. Meaning that people are motivated to vote on matters that directly affect them.

The 416 Group was formed 22 years ago as a community action group - [Home - 416 Group](#).

It aims to represent residents in Killara and Lindfield who live near the Lane Cove National Park. That's some 750 households who shop in Lindfield and commute from Killara and Lindfield stations approximately 3km away. The area is accessed by Lady Game Drive and the roads leading to and from the Pacific Highway.

We thank candidates for standing to represent Bradfield in the 2025 Federal election. Our committee has prepared the following questions for candidates, and we welcome your response not later than two weeks prior to the election date. We will publish this on our website and also the local West Lindfield/Killara community Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/616460595575823>

1. The Bradfield electorate is a captive of its geography with limited road routes in and out due to the Lane Cove River, Middle Harbour, the steep terrain and restricted road easements. Traffic congestion is deteriorating each year. Given the proposed huge increase in new housing development and so population would you support:
 - Federal funding for large scale commuter parking to get cars off the road and people onto trains.
 - Federal funding for a road tunnel under Chatswood (stage 1) and under the Pacific Highway to Wahroonga (stage 2)
2. The current housing crisis has many contributing factors. Would you support
 - Matching net migration to the growth in housing supply
 - Actions to curtail short term holiday letting of residential housing. One company alone has almost 250,000 listings. State governments of all persuasions have failed to adequately act.
 - Taxation of residential housing that is intentionally left vacant for long periods (as has been successfully implemented in British Columbia)
3. After ten years of work by Ku-ring-gai Council and the community, the Lindfield Village Hub development (which was for a new library, community centre, main line supermarket, shops, a park and new housing) collapsed when in November 2023 the NSW State Government abruptly demanded the return of \$9.8M funding for commuter parking. The then developer withdrew, and the project collapsed.

Less than half of the streets in our area have footpaths. The Ku-ring-gai Council has a program to build a footpath on a least one side of every street. At the present rate of progress this program will take 100 years. Meanwhile for new sub-divisions in New South Wales a footpath is a minimum standard.

The drainage infrastructure in Ku-ring-gai is old and badly degraded. The Council does not have the funding resource to make serious inroads in tackling the problem.

- Local Government as the third tier is the forgotten child and is under resourced to provide for basic community needs. What initiatives are needed to address the fiscal imbalance problem?
4. In January 1994 a huge bushfire roared down the Lane Cove Valley with many houses lost. Fire and Rescue NSW categorise bushfires as Moderate, High, Extreme and Catastrophic. In the last category many of our homes could not withstand a fire in these conditions, could not be defended and people would be evacuated. The World Meteorological Organization has reported that 2024 was the warmest year on record.
 - What are your policies to arrest climate change which is contributing to bushfire risk?
 5. A feasibility is currently underway by the High-Speed Rail Authority. High speed rail has the potential to reduce population pressure on Sydney by making travel from Canberra and Newcastle, their regions and beyond, much quicker. Some of the cost can be recovered through value capture. There is 70,000km of high-speed rail in operation around the world and 30,000km planned.
 - Do you support investment in high-speed rail and how can it be advanced?
 6. Parts of the Killara and Lindfield community have recently been blindsided by an announcement by the State Department of Education that in the future their children will no longer be able to attend Killara High School but instead the Lindfield Learning Village (former UTS campus). Some bought their homes on the strength of Killara High School's reputation. Some are uneasy about the flexible educational model practised by the Lindfield Learning Village and the instability of its leadership.
 - Do you support choice for parents in the State educational system.
 7. The Lane Cove National Park is a very popular conservation and recreational resource for Bradfield. A bridge over the Lane Cove River for pedestrians and cyclists has been proposed by the 416 Group linking the bottom Fiddens Wharf Road adjacent to Redbank Oval and Riverside Drive. This would create a shorter walking loop for park visitors and a safe route for cyclists from Bradfield accessing Macquarie Park and the University. It is supported by local NPWS management.
 - Would you extend support to this proposal?
 8. A frequent complaint about politics is 'short termism'. Would you support:
 - Four-year Federal terms
 - Any other initiatives to break the short-term focus and if so, what are they?