



STEP Inc

Community-based Environmental Conservation since 1978

State Election: Candidates Environmental Forum for the Upper North Shore

STEP Inc will partner with the Nature Conservation Council (NCC) of New South Wales to sponsor a **Candidates Environmental Forum** on **Tuesday 22 February 2011**. The Environmental Forum will be open to all local State election candidates in the **Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, Davidson and Epping** electorates. It will commence at 8.00pm and will be held at the St. Andrews Church Hall, corner Chisholm and Vernon Streets, Turramurra. The meeting will be open to members of the public as well as members of local environmental groups. Local media will also be invited to attend.

The NCC is New South Wales' peak environmental organisation and is the umbrella body representing more than 100 environmental groups in the State. The NCC and other like minded groups have put together a state election platform for the environment, called **Natural Advantage**. (See: <http://www.nccnsw.org.au/campaigns/state-election>). This outlines all the environmental commitments needed for investing in a healthy and prosperous future for NSW. It includes detailed recommendations for improved planning and development, marine protection, renewable energy and other protected areas.

The Candidates Environmental Forum will be run by STEP President Barry Tomkinson. It will be focused on giving our future political leaders both the opportunity to respond to the issues raised in **Natural Advantage** and also to make strong commitments for significantly better environmental management in the New South Wales. **Pepe Clarke**, the CEO of the NCC, will be leading the **Natural Advantage** Question and Answer session with the candidates.

STEP is the largest environmental community group on Sydney's North Shore, with over 400 members living in Ku-ring-gai, Hornsby and adjoining areas. Our aim is to preserve natural bushland and to protect biodiversity for the enjoyment of future generations.

STEP is a not for profit and politically non-aligned community organisation. Basic to our approach is the need to put the required planning to achieve our aims into a long-term time frame. STEP sees the Candidates Environmental Forum being the ideal place for our aspiring politicians to give the local North Shore community the opportunity to better understand what are their, and their party's, immediate and longer term environmental plans and commitments.

Need more information?

- For more information on the Forum, please contact Barry Tomkinson on 0412 250 595 or at home on 9484 9934.
- To formulate questions you would like put to candidates at the Forum, based on **Natural Advantage**, please email Barry at: Barryt@bigpond.net.au.