



16 August 2024

## Ku-ring-gai Council Election 2024 – Candidate Questions

Please return your answers to [info@foke.org.au](mailto:info@foke.org.au) by **5.00pm on FRIDAY 23 AUGUST 2024.**

**Candidates Full Name:** .....Caroline Atkinson

**Ward Standing for:** .....Roseville .....

**Authorised Campaign Address...** 19a/1 Hordern Place, Camperdown NSW 2050  
PO Box 366, Westgate NSW 2048

**Email:** [kuringgai@nsw.greens.org.au](mailto:kuringgai@nsw.greens.org.au) .....**Mobile:** 0452212112.....

..... **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/KuringgaiGreens/>  
.....

**Qualifications:** .....PhD, MBA, GAICD .....**Day job:**.....Director

Are you a member of a political party? **YES**

If **YES**, specify .....The Greens.....

Community/ lobby/ sporting group membership? **NO**

If **YES**, specify .....

Have you endorsed Save Greater Sydney Coalition's election planning principles? **NO**

Have you signed the YIMBY election pledge? **NO**

Do you believe dwelling supply alone will solve the housing shortage and affordability? **NO**

Do you support Ku-ring-gai Council's legal action against the NSW Government's Transport Orientated Development (TOD) SEPP? **Why or why not? No because its high cost and there should be more constructive ways to stand up to the Minns Government.**

Do you support making a new place based LEP to mitigate the adverse impacts of the TOD and Low to Mid-Rise Housing SEPP on Ku-ring-gai? **YES**

Do you support maintaining public Council land for community use? **YES**

Do you support listing Ku-ring-gai GeoRegion as a UNESCO GeoRegion? **YES – assuming this is selective to the areas that require preservation.**

Do you support the protection of Ku-ring-gai's Heritage Conservation Areas? **YES**

Do you support the establishment of a Ku-ring-gai Council Environmental Advisory Group? **YES**

Do you support natural turf on Ku-ring-gai's sports and playing fields; or the installation of artificial turf? **NATURAL TURF**

**Expanded Questions:**

*Please keep each answer less than 200 words (longer answers may be cut).*

1. What motivated you to run for office at the Ku-ring-gai local government elections?

*Ku-ring-gai has been my home for 15 years; I have a deep affinity with the area so am motivated to use my experience and expertise to sustain our community, its heritage and its natural environment.*

2. What is your vision for Ku-ring-gai?

*Living in Ku-ring-gai will continue to mean that we are surrounded by nature such as the unique Blue Gum High forest and we are lucky enough to have good community facilities and parks. It is essential we keep these places special. Let's not introduce contaminations such as synthetic turf which pollutes our environment with micro plastics. I will fight to get natural turf in places such as Charles Bean Oval so that our open spaces remain accessible and safe for everyone.*

*Ku-ring-gai can develop much needed housing in our area, including that for our essential workers such as nurses, without destroying its heritage and green spaces. Ku-ring-gai needs investment in schools, roads and public transport to support any growth. I believe the work of the council can address our communities needs and transition to renewable energy while encouraging appropriate local investment.*

3. What life experiences and professional experiences do you bring that will serve in your role as a councillor?

*As a Roseville Councillor I will use my experience as a company director, as chair of an environmental advocacy agency, as a small business owner as well as my academic qualifications to advocate for the Ku-ring-gai community and for our environment. I have also worked closely with Government and the private sector for many years, so I know how to get things done.*

4. What do you see as the key issues facing Ku-ring-gai?

- *Protecting the nature that surrounds us, much of which is unique to the area. With the increasing pressure from housing and recreation such as mountain biking, finding the balance will be essential to ensuring the survival of this beautiful area*
- *The development of more affordable housing to allow essential workers to live in Ku-ring-gai without destroying our natural environment, open spaces and heritage.*
- *Making sure there is public transport to our transport hubs and our schools. As some of our schools draw from a wide catchment area this is an increasing problem and drop time at many schools is dangerous chaos.*

5. How do you propose to address those issues if elected?

- *Ensure that the planning processes, and any new SEPP/LEP preserves unique habitat areas, such as the Blue Gum High Forest or habitat areas for our native animals. By fighting against the land offset scheme which allows developers to offset land of questionable value to destroy our unique ecosystems.*
- *Stand up against the 'one size fits all' ToD approach of the Minns Government and develop a plan to add more housing which fits with the character of Ku-ring-gai and allows for the green spaces that are so essential for our community*
- *Get expert advice on how to manage the transport systems to best serve our community. Public transport is a must, privatisation has not delivered the transport options that the community needs. Look at 'active' transport options by providing safe and well-connected cycleways and pedestrian crossings*

6. How will you ensure community engagement, and participation?

- *holding public consultation meetings on important subjects for council decisions*
- *asking for input on Council decisions from advocacy groups, which often include experts and the public. Making sure the information is available on the website and in print at council premises*
- *surveying local residents, or users of facilities about decisions that affect them*
- *making sure all council discussions and decisions are public, with reasoning presented, to ensure the integrity of decision making*

7. What do you consider are key issues in your Ward

- *Converting the Charles Bean Oval to natural turf stopping the outflow of micro-plastics that pollute our natural environment.*
- *Ensuring sensitive development around the station areas which already have a significant number of higher density houses*

8. Are there any additional comments you wish to add?

**Candidate's Name:**....Caroline Atkison .....**Signature:**.....

**Date:**.....22/08/2024.....

Thankyou for your time in answering the questions. Candidate answers will be published on FOKE's website, Enews and sent to members and supporters/resident's lists.

Please attach your election **photo**.

Authorised by Kathy Cowley, President, Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment Inc. (FOKE) M: 0431 158 880