

BARTON DEAKIN BRIEF: NSW by-elections in Willoughby, Strathfield, Monaro and Bega Monday 7 February 2022

Overview

On the 12 February 2022, by-elections will be held for the NSW State seats of Willoughby, Strathfield, Monaro and Bega. Nominations closed on 27 January 2022.

The by-elections were triggered by the resignations of sitting Members:

Willoughby by-election - Premier and Member for Willoughby Gladys Berejiklian.

Strathfield by-election - former Labor Leader and Member for Strathfield Jodi McKay.

Monaro by-election - former Deputy Premier and Member for Monaro John Barilaro.

Bega by-election - former Minister and Member for Bega Andrew Constance, to run for Federal politics for the seat of Gilmore.

Postal votes will be accepted up until the 25 February; if contests are close, the final result may not be known until this date

Electorates

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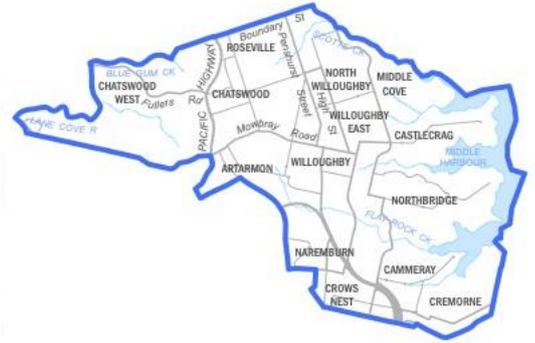
Image source: Ben Raue, accessed on 7/02/2022 <https://www.tallyroom.com.au/45382>



Willoughby by-election

Electorate Background

Willoughby, a lower north shore electorate in Sydney encompasses Chatswood, Crows Nest and Cremorne. The electorate is a safe Liberal seat and was held by former Premier Gladys Berejiklian in 2019 with a margin of 21 per cent. Labor did not nominate a candidate for this by-election.



Liberal Candidate – Tim James

Tim James has had a career spanning law, public affairs and auditing. Tim most recently served as the Executive Director of the Menzies Research Centre. Tim also worked as the CEO of Medicines Australia, as a lawyer at Allens, and an auditor at KPMG. Tim previously worked as Chief of Staff to the Hon. Anthony Roberts MP. Tim has a Bachelor of Laws and Business from UTS and a Master of Business Administration from UNSW.

Greens Candidate – Lynn Saville

Lynne Saville is a former Willoughby City Councillor of 18 years, a registered nurse, and higher education lecturer. Saville holds a Masters of Applied Science in Environmental Health and currently maintains an active role on the Royal North Shore Hospital's Community Participation Committee, among other health, and environmental associations. Lynne's primary policies include climate change action, increased public health funding, and strengthened anti-corruption bodies. Daniel Keogh, the Greens candidate at the 2019 state election received 11.2 per cent first preference votes.

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Independent – Larissa Penn

Larissa Penn is a local mother of three, a volunteer, and an advocate against overdevelopment. Educated at the University of Western Sydney, Penn has a Bachelor and Honours in Technology Management, specialising in Biotechnology. Other key campaign policies include safeguarding anti-corruption bodies, no toll road tunnels, and investment in ecological sustainability. Penn was the independent candidate at the 2019 state election in Willoughby, receiving 9.9 per cent first preference votes.

Other Candidates

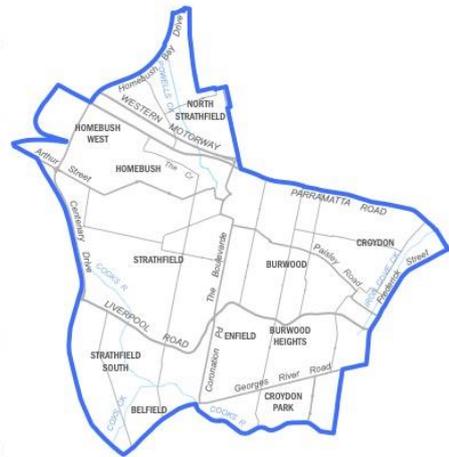
- Sustainable Australia Party – Stop Overdevelopment / Corruption - William John Bourke
- Liberal Democratic Party - Samuel Joseph Gunning
- Reason NSW - Penelope Jane Hackett



Strathfield by-election

Electorate Background

Strathfield is a Sydney inner-west electorate which encases Croydon, all of Burwood Council and parts of Homebush. The seat is held by Labor with a 5 per cent margin.



Liberal Candidate – Bridget Sakr

Bridget Sakr has spent more than three decades working in the financial services sector, and is the co-founder of a home loans business. Bridget has a Bachelor of Arts (Economics) from University of Sydney and a Graduate Certificate in Human Resource Management from UTS. In February 2020, Bridget's daughter and three cousins were killed while walking along Bettington Road in Oatlands. They were struck by a vehicle driven by a drunk and drugged driver who lost control while speeding. This led Bridget to establish the Road Trauma Support Group (RTSG), which provides relief and support to families who suffer in this way. Moreover, RTSG fights for better road safety and driving education.

Labor Candidate – Jason Yat-sen Li

Jason holds Arts and Law degrees from the University of Sydney and a Masters of Law from New York University Law School. From 1996 to 1998 Jason worked for the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia in the Netherlands and in 1998 returned to Australia to lead a number of political campaigns including for Australia to become a Republic. Jason was previously the Labor candidate for Bennelong at the 2013 Federal election, a Labor candidate for the NSW Senate in 2019 and had again been chosen as the third Labor Senate candidate for the 2022 election before being announced as Labor's candidate for Strathfield.

Other Candidates

- Independent - Elizabeth Farrelly
- Sustainable Australia Party – Stop Overdevelopment/ Corruption - Ellie Robertson
- Animal Justice Party (AJP) - Rohan Laxmanlal
- The Greens – Courtney Buckley



Monaro by-election

Electorate Background

Monaro is a southern NSW electorate which encases Queanbeyan, Bungendore, Braidwood and Cooma. The seat is held by the Nationals with an 11.6 per cent margin.

Nationals Candidate – Nichole Overall

Nichole Overall is a freelance writer, social historian, and communications consultant. Having attained a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Canberra, Overall has had an extensive career in media and journalism. Nichole actively contributes to local organisations, as President of Meals on Wheels Queanbeyan from 2013-2020, and recently as the Patron of Molonglo Support Services, who aid those dealing with domestic violence, abuse, and homelessness. Overall was announced as the candidate in October 2021.



Labor Candidate – Bryce Wilson

Local Councillor Bryce Wilson is a former electorate adviser to Federal Member David Smith and has had a career in teaching. Wilson previously ran for the party in the same seat in 2019, which saw the formerly marginal seat receive a 9.1 per cent swing to the Nationals between 2015 and 2019.

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Greens Candidate – Catherine Moore

Catherine Moore is a former local councillor, writer and artist. Moore has been a member of the Greens since 1992, and has stood for election in the seat of Monaro a previous three times. The Greens received 7.9 per cent first preference votes in Monaro, during the 2019 state election.

Other Candidates

- Independent - Andrew Thaler
- Sustainable Australia Party – Stop Overdevelopment / Corruption - James Holgate
- Animal Justice Party - Frances Seymour



Bega by-election

Electorate Background

Bega is a NSW south coast electorate that spans from Batemans Bay to the Victorian border. Agriculture and tourism are key Bega industries. People aged 65 years and over make up almost 30% of the electorate. Prior to the resignation of former Member Andrew Constance, the seat of Bega was held by the Liberal Party with a margin of 6.9%. The seat of Bega has been consistently held by the Liberal Party since 1988.



Liberal Candidate – Fiona Kotvojs

Dr Fiona Kotvojs is the Liberal candidate for the seat of Bega. Fiona worked as a high school teacher and has operated two businesses. She formerly served as a Director of Oxfam Australia. Fiona ran as the Liberal candidate for the Federal seat of Eden-Monaro in 2019 and at the 2020 by-election.

Labor Candidate – Michael Holland

Dr Michael Holland is an obstetrician, gynaecologist and university lecturer and has lived and worked in the district for two decades. Michael recently resigned from the Southern NSW Local Health District citing concerns over inadequate maternity services at Moruya Hospital.

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Greens Candidate - Peter Haggar

Peter Haggar operates Cafe Evolve in Bega, which prioritises waste reduction by using compostable packaging.

Other Candidates

- Shooters, Fishers and Farmers – Victor Hazir
- Independent – Jeffrey Hawkins
- Independent – Ursula Bennett
- Sustainable Australia Party – Stop Overdevelopment / Corruption - Karin Geiselhart

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