

SURVEY DODGES ISSUES

By Don Pagé, 19 Feb 2019

Local Federal MP Craig Kelly's latest polling has avoided many hot federal issues to focus instead on bland State and council matters, with a national election due by May. In a recent mail-out, the Hughes Community Survey 2019 invited ticked answers from voters on safer non-federal issues like:

- overdevelopment in Sutherland Shire,
- traffic problems at Sutherland railway station,
- the state of public transport,
- lack of public parking ,
- local road widening,
- electricity prices.

To be fair, some of the non-federal issues had also been highlighted last year by his leftist Labor challenger, Cr Diedree Steinwall.

MP Kelly (Liberal, Hughes) is a conservative who favours coal and criticises renewable energy. A vocal right-wing colleague of former leader Tony Abbott, he was active in the toppling of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull last year.

Absent from his survey were controversial Federal issues in the headlines, with no long-term solutions proposed:

- a banking scandal with no executives charged with anything,
- catastrophic drought destroying the Murray-Darling basin and its fish population,
- record flooding in Queensland which is crippling local farming and towns,
- climate-change brawling between Liberal governments, State and Federal (MP Kelly prominently denies that climate change is man-made, but simply a normal variation),
- internal party warfare has got more bitter within the Federal Government's factions,
- medical dramas over offshore detention camps for illegal arrivals.

MP Kelly did ask voters about petrol prices, a national issue, but did not mention that about 50 cents a litre goes to the Federal Government. Some other persistent national problems did not rate a mention:

- fraudulent phone scams to fleece elderly people with threats and deception (by overseas criminals using legally rented Australian telephone numbers),
- our richest companies pay no tax while the wage-earners pay the most.

A national election is due by May and campaigning has begun. MP Kelly's views and contact details are on: <https://www.facebook.com/CraigKellyMP/>

His Labor rival is at <https://www.alp.org.au/our-people/our-people/diedree-steinwall/>