

Campaign and Policy suggestions

by Upper House Candidate Michael Darby 2002-2003

During the election campaign Michael Darby's constructive suggestions were always made through the correct party channels and never aired in public.

16/7/02				Proposed to Transport Shadow Minister Peter Debnam MP that the Liberal Party investigate using natural gas to heat the air column in exhaust stacks to increase the altitude of fumes dispersion.
7/8/02	1425			Long telephone discussion with Hon John Ryan MLC on several subjects including Mandatory Sentencing. Proposed that the Coalition commit to a major campaign to defeat Prison Illiteracy.
10/9/02	1400	Conversation with Barry O'Farrell MP	Opposition Spokesman on Education	Proposed two possible Education policy options for the Opposition: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recruitment of mature aged teachers who have retired from other trades and professions. 2. Encouragement of endowments for public schools along the lines of endowments commonly given to private schools by parents and by former students.
3/10/02	1600			Suggested to the NSW Liberal Leader (through Jim Jolley at Parliament House) that the State Liberal Party take the lead in calling for action against electronic vandalism (computer virus creation).
24/11/02	1200	Novatel	Homebush	Proposed to Shadow Education Minister Barry O'Farrell MP that the Opposition evaluate structuring the primary school syllabus on the basis of six-month curricula, so that pupils are promoted twice a year instead of annually. This would reduce the age difference in classes, minimize the trauma of being "made to repeat" and facilitate promotion of bright students.
9/12/02	1800	Parliament House	Sydney	Candidates' meeting. Expressed concern to the State Director that he appeared to be promoting "Opposition to Overdevelopment" on an equal footing with policies on Security, Hospitals, Transport and Retirees.
17/12/02	0800			Wrote by email to the Liberal Leader suggesting he consider selecting alternate weeks between now and election day, and designate those weeks for campaigning on particular issues, the aim being to control the political agenda
17/12/02	1420			Conversation with Hon Mike Gallacher MLC.. Proposed that Lower House candidates' advertising should include thumbnail photos of Messrs Gallacher and Gay to remind voters that the Coalition is a team effort and to increase name recognition.
26/12/02	1400			Distributed to candidates a suggestion for identifying and recruiting Liberal supporters by reference to Christmas displays.
06/01/03	1600			Email to Liberal Leader repeating earlier 17 December policy

				suggestions and making particular reference to SMH article of 6/1/03 on subject of tunnel air quality. Copies to President and State Director
6/1/03	1700			Email to Shadow Attorney-General Chris Hartcher drawing attention to a potential Labor Party scandal.
8/1/03	1100			Telephone conversation with Damien Mantach in Canberra on the subject of Feedback. He acknowledges that Feedback is not designed to administer a campaign and has undertaken to meet on his next visit to Sydney
12/1/03	0830			Alerted Shadow A-G Chris Hartcher MP to opportunity for statement on the effective abolition of the death penalty in Illinois by Governor Ryan. Received permission to state, if interviewed, that the Liberal Party is opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances.
12/1/03	2100			Wrote to Shadow Attorney General Chris Hartcher MP on the subject of gang intimidation of Botany Bay residents, canvassing possibility of "No Lawful Purpose" legislation.
17/1/03	1430			Advised Reg Chamberlain at the Secretariat that Feedback does not have a facility for recording starting and finishing times at polling booths. Reg agreed that individual campaigns could be assisted by software which allows boothworkers to be flagged in Feedback then exported to a polling booth database, but Reg is too busy to arrange such software. I have every reason to believe Reg's statement that he is working 15 or 16 hours per day. It seems that there is little prospect of upgrading Feedback prior to the March 2003 Election. We should aim at an integrated software system in ample time for the next Federal Election.
14/03/03	1500			Travelling without access to email, left a couple of oral messages in an attempt to encourage John Brogden to use at the Campaign launch the peroration: "We will govern wisely. We will govern fairly. We will govern prudently. We will govern frugally. We will govern better than Labor."
20/3/03	1540			Conveyed to the office of the Liberal Leader's office the suggestion that a good slogan for the last day is "No to Drugs, Not to the Greens, No to Labor".
21/3/03	0937			Suggested to Christian Sealey in the Leader's office that the Leader might point out Bob Carr's failure to say whether he agrees with Simon Crean on Iraq. "Brogden tells us where he stands, Carr waits for the opinion polls"
23/03/03				Wrote to the Liberal Leader suggesting that he invite Peter Draper Member-elect for Tamworth to join the Liberal Party, and offering to prove to Mr Draper that his seat can be defended as a Liberal.