

**TRANSCRIPT
612 ABC MADONNA KING 1000
(AND TERRI BEGLEY)**

FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER 2011

**INTV: KATE JONES, ALP MEMBER FOR ASHGROVE; CAMPBELL
NEWMAN, LNP LEADER, CANDIDATE FOR ASHGROVE; SANDRA
BAYLEY, GREENS CANDIDATE FOR ASHGROVE**

**RE: ELECTION; LOCAL ISSUES; WHY NEWMAN IS CHOSE
ASHGROVE; NEWMAN'S SLEAZEBUCKET COMMENTS; COAL SEAM
GAS; DAYLIGHT SAVINGS; WILD RIVERS; MAJELLA; TRAFFIC
CONGESTION – WARDELL/SAMFORD INTERSECTION; GREENS
PREFERENCES; WATERWORKS ROAD; COMMUNITY CONSULTATON
ON PLANNING ISSUES; DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES; LACK OF
TALENT IN THE LNP; COST OF LIVING; KATE JONES SAYS SHE
WON'T ACCEPT ANOTHER MINISTRY IF SHE AND THE ALP WIN
GOVERNMENT; DIRTY POLITICS/DIRTY CAMPAIGNS; WASTE LEVY;
NATIONAL PARKS; SOLAR FEED-IN TARIFFS; FLOODS; AMBULANCE
LEVY**

King: Kate Jones up against Campbell Newman. Now there might be a dozen candidates come Election Day. I suspect they will be but that will be the main game. Are you going to vote for who will run the state or do you want a local member whose full time job is taking your cares and concerns to George Street. If you have a question and you are at our live broadcast can you put your hand up or go over there and see Terri or Helena, someone in a red shirt who will take that question. I repeat if you're a member of a political party that doesn't stop you asking a question but I really appreciate you letting us know if you are. If you're at home you can twitter your questions or tweet your questions as people have and it is just #612ashgrove. #612ashgrove and we'll pick it up from there.

But let's get into the nitty gritty. The candidates, Kate Jones the sitting MP up against Campbell Newman who wants to run the state ;and with 30,800 electors in the seat of Ashgrove will it be roads, commitments to local business, local health issue that dictate the votes? Or will voting in this electorate be driven by state wide issues. Voters want a change of government and this is where it will happen. Kate Jones is the current member of Ashgrove, please make her feel very welcome.

Jones: Thank you very much.

King: Campbell Newman leads the LNP from outside parliament and he is the party's Ashgrove candidate, hello and welcome.

King: And Sandra Bayley who is running for the Greens. Good morning to you too.

I just want to put one thing on the record here. Most of you who know me I bust my guts to be fair. In fact I don't vote and every time I say that the ABC gets a complaint but I don't vote. They can hardly sack me now can they? But the reason I say that now is my decision on who to include and not in today's panel. The Sex Party wanted to be involved. I wanted the focus to be on the main parties and any party that could influence the outcome for the main parties. One Nation wanted to be involved and they will have a candidate but they don't have a candidate yet. This electorate I suspect will have a dozen candidates all seeking fame and fortune. If Bob Irwin had committed to run for Bob Katter's party then he would be on the stage now too. So I decided the two main players and on Election Day one of these will win. Kate Jones or Campbell Newman and we've decided to include the Greens because of the impact the Greens could have on polling day; and that's why Sandra Bayley is sitting on stage too. Is there a question you have that might help you decide how you'll vote? This is your chance to do it and don't be offended if my team asks you whether you're a member of a political party. That is something we want to know before you get to ask that question. Thanks also to Westside news for collating so many questions that came in via their door too. And I will go to Terri, you can bring over the first question if you like or I will start if you like. Campbell Newman how much time will you spend here during the campaign and how much time will you spend selling yourself to those parts of Queensland who might not know you very well?

Newman: Look that's a great question. I've really got a tough job because I've got to get out there and sell the LNP message across Queensland. The way we want to sort out the state's economy and the performance of government. So you know I'm here you know every week during the week. So on the weekend for example I was doing information booths and community corners with my team and I've been out here this week at morning teas and the like as well. So as much as I possibly can.

King: Kate Jones, what is the biggest local issue in Ashgrove?

Jones: I think the biggest local issue is our schools. That is definitely from as a state member of parliament time and time again people will say to me that they want to ensure that we keep the great schools that we have in our local community.

King: Can you win? Doesn't the LNP have a win behind its sails and it's unlikely you will be the member come the day after Election Day.

Jones: Undoubtedly I am the underdog in this contest. Campbell Newman is a very slick, experienced politician and he wants to top job in Queensland. So it is going to be a hard contest but I think from the comments we've heard here this morning from people, like the locals that were on the panel I'm absolutely committed to being the member for Ashgrove. This is where I live, where I am raising my family. This is the job I wanted. This is why I put my hand up to be in the state parliament.

King: Campbell Newman answer this question for me and I'll give you one minute. Look can we just actually leave our applause. I'll ask you during it but just so we get through as much as possible if we can just keep our applause until the end. Campbell Newman, answer this question and I'll give you one minute. I live in Ashgrove, I'm a swinging voter. I look at you, I think you're an energy bunny. You're from a family of politicians, you attack Labor for dirty tricks and your party was up for far worse. I look at your party and think you haven't been able to get across the line to date. Why would I vote for you when if you don't win Jeff Seeney will be premier? One minute.

Newman: Well I suppose I'd say to people look at my track record as the Lord Mayor of Brisbane you know that I'm a known quantity. Not only did I deliver some of those major infrastructure projects that were being debated an hour or so ago but I delivered 700 new buses, three new swimming pools, a library. I saved the Milton Tennis Court site from development, inappropriate development. There'll now be a wonderful new \$30 million park in the centre of Brisbane. I also had a very strong commitment to the environment planting 1.4 million trees in the three years from the last council election till when I left the Lord Mayoralty. Saved 500 hectares of bushland from development and also made the largest commitment to purchasing green or renewable energy in the nation. BCC only buys renewable energy now and we should all be proud of that.

King: Kate Jones, one minute to you. Your party has been in power for almost 20 years. One cabinet minister is in jail, promises have been broken, health workers, the salt of the earth couldn't even get paid correctly. You went to the last election and we didn't think the central of your government would be privatisation but there you go. Why would I as an elector of Ashgrove vote for you?

Jones: Because I'm running on my record here in the seat of Ashgrove and I'm very proud of what I've delivered. Probably the five things that I'm most proud of and I think have made a difference to the lives, the families, the older people in our community is 1) we have spent over \$100 million in local

schools since I have been the member. We reopened the police station right across the road here that the LNP closed when they were last in office. We have a new ambulance station in Ashgrove. We have a new ambulance station at Mitchelton. I declared D'Aguilar National Park a national park on our door step. The largest national park next to a capital city in all of Australia which means The Gap will never be built out.

King: And Sandra Bayley. My email has been full of questions about coal seam gas, (inaudible) wild rivers legislation, and other environmental issues over the last couple of weeks. Can I give you a minute here. What is the key issue for the Greens and which party offers the best alternative.

Bayley: I think the key issue for the Greens is a safe future and the future's threatened by all sorts of our current activities. When I door knock and ask people are they, the first thing that strikes me – a lot of people don't say there's a local issue for them and I acknowledge that we live in a fairly privileged, a very privileged part of the world. When we start talking on the bigger issues which the Greens are particularly concerned about – coal seam gas being one of them people express a lot of concern. It's deeply concerning to us that the mining industry in general and coal seam gas in specific is not required to conform to water management laws or land clearing laws. Why are they given that privilege and at the same time we're planting trees in Brisbane. It doesn't confuse (?).

King: Alright we're about to go through our questions and so the first person you should come forward and I'll ask you a question but one of email. This is from David and its one to Campbell and Kate Jones. Campbell Newman why would you stand in the seat of Ashgrove when you live in Windsor in another electorate?

Newman: Oh look that's been put to me before and the answer is I'm passionate about this area. I met Lisa in the electorate, we married in the electorate, we christened our first born in the electorate, we had our first home here. We lived here for ten years. We've been part of the Ashgrove dance studio community for the last 15/16 years – just done a concert at QPAC over the weekend. My relatives and friends live here. It's the area I want to represent. If I wanted an easier ride I would've gone for Central over where I live. But look you know plenty of state members have in the past and currently right now don't live in their electorate. That often happens. The final point for the accountants in the audience – I bank in the electorate and surely that should sway everybody.

King: Well Jayrobson989 on twitter has just asked if you win the seat of Ashgrove would you move here?

Newman: No I don't think it would be fair of me to say that or make that commitment but look I live about two kilometres from the border. I'd say to you that I'm not just running to be the local member. I'm running to be Premier of Queensland. I will take care of this electorate like you've seen nothing before if I should become the state member and I'm going to put a lot of time and attention into it. I just say to people in Ashgrove I mean I think it's a pretty good thing if you've got the premier on your side as your local member. I think it's a pretty good thing as well. So let's just not lose sight of that.

King: Alright our first question Terri?

Begley: This is from Richie, a member of our audience in relation to you Campbell Newman and some of the policies you might have on the drawing board.

Richie: Yes I'd just like to know if you win the seat of Ashgrove what are you going to do on a local level in your first term?

Newman: Okay well some of the things that I think that are really important and there's big and small issues. The big one is the cost of living. We've got a plan that we've already announced which would see household budgets get about \$330 per annum back through freezing motor vehicle registrations for the first full term of an LNP government led by myself. Reforms to water and power pricing to actually give money back to families; about \$330 in aggregate. So that's one. Another local one, a very local one is the issue of the The Gap netball club. I want to support them with new courts. I really think we've got to do something about the park n ride situation along the railway line to Ferny Grove and also out to The Gap and I also want to make sure that we've really got to get going with dealing with the congestion problems along metro road 5; a number of intersections need to be upgraded and sorted out.

King: Alright Kate Jones very briefly can you answer that same question.

Jones: Yeah I have three things that I'm absolutely committed to doing if I am re-elected in Ashgrove. Number one is fixing the Samford Rd, Wardell Street intersection and seeing that through. Number two I want to deliver a new sports hall at The Gap State High School and number three I want to work with council to get a solution to the waterworks road intersection with Jubilee Terrace. Can I also answer two things that Campbell Newman said that he would do if he was re-elected

are happening right now. There is a new park n ride being built at The Gap right now. We have a submission in with the Department of Sport to upgrade The Gap sports courts right now and we should have an answer on that in the next month.

King: Our next question Terri?

Begley: Again is to Campbell Newman, this is Sophie, a university student and it's on parliamentary behaviour.

King: Sophie.

Sophie: You chose to call Anna Bligh a sleaze bucket last week. What exactly did you mean by that because personally as a woman I found that offensive?

Newman: Well fair comment. Fair comment and I'm not going to sort of re-visit it other than to say that over the last few months I've been called a lot of things and I've also been called a lot of things by the Premier in the past under privilege in the parliament. So look no one should be precious about these things. Every political figure on occasions has moments and I certainly acknowledge I had one last week. At the end of the day though I want this campaign to be about policies. I don't want it to be about personalities. I want to talk about the issues of concern to Queenslanders.

King: Alright that's

Newman: Particularly the state's economy, dealing with the cost of living.

King: Alright but it wasn't the question.

Newman: And infrastructure.

King: Alright did you get in trouble when you got home for that comment?

Newman: I didn't catch what you said Madonna.

King: Did you get in trouble when you got home for that comment?

Newman: I don't know. I think she said honey, you know, really, you know, anyway I probably sort of vented back but you know, but anyway, I I certainly, I'm certainly happy to admit...

Jones: No one on our side of politics has ever called Campbell Newman a sleaze bucket and we never would and I certainly wouldn't condone that.

Newman: Well my wife, my wife's objecting to that Kate and my wife recalls the premier having a huge tirade against me in the parliament in 2007 under privilege. I don't want to go there today. I don't want to talk about this stuff again but there is plenty of stuff on the public record.

King: But were you referred to as a sleazebag?

Newman: I've been referred to by the premier as a liar and in very heated tones. I've been called dishonest. Andrew Fraser has said my wife's family were trying to profiteer on the misery of flood victims. Look I don't want to get precious about this but that's what's been said so let's not get precious in terms of the Labor party. Let's not get precious about these things. There's plenty of mud and nonsense being thrown around by everybody at the moment. We should move on. We should have this campaign on the real issues.

King: Okay I think you've answered that question. Lisa, did you want to say something on that? No, alright. Our next question Terri Begley, what is that?

Begley: We've got a lot of questions based on environment issues here in the electorate so you will hear a series of people with particular issues relating to that. Michelle, you're first.

Michelle: Good morning, ah Mr Newman this is for you. With 40,000 coal seam gas wells and 300 billion litres of water being extracted from the Great Artesian Basin every year water depletion is an issue. Your policy advocates that if a farmers wells run dry you are asking the mining companies to dig more boars and dig deeper boars. Do you think that that is a really good strategy for water management?

King: Well I'm sorry I must dispute, that's not what our policy says and anybody that, anybody who wants to,

Michelle: (inaudible)

Newman: Well we're not the government.

Michelle: (inaudible) on your website. I sent this to you about three weeks ago and you denied it being there and I didn't get a reply. It is on your website sir.

Newman: Well I'm sorry but our policy is not about doing that. Our policy is correcting the issues that I'm afraid this government and particularly this former Environment Minister has allowed to occur. The coal seam gas industry is proceeding at a rate of knots (?) out there. There are a lot of issues and concerns. The

reason that we have so much angst coming out of the rural sector is because the government hasn't got it right; and we as I said have a policy and if we become the government we're going to do everything we can to address the power imbalance between farmers and multinational gas companies. We're going to make sure people get fair compensation and the whole issue of access has got to be sorted out. In relation

King: Alright

Newman: But in relation to water Madonna we absolutely will be taking care of that issue. We're going to set up a land and water commission for the gas fields, to manage these issues properly.

King: Alright Sandra Bayley, would you like to just jump in there.

Bayley: Rural Queensland is becoming an industrial site and that's a deep distress to a lot of people. We're moving into the 21st century now. We need to be thinking about alternative forms of energy other than fossil fuels. We know from the best science worldwide that they're the main cause of global warming and that we have about a decade to try and turn around our emissions. We're doing the opposite. Renewable energy and technology is now currently available and useable. Why aren't we doing that?

King: It's 22 minutes past ten. We're at The Gap footy club this morning. Candidates asking questions of Campbell Newman, Sandra Bayley and Kate Jones. Several questions on email have come in on the issue of daylight saving. If (inaudible) they have been critical of both you Campbell Newman and Kate Jones for at some time supporting daylight saving and not now addressing it. Can I ask you both, what is your position and will that change in the next three years?

Jones: Well my position on this has always been consistent Madonna. I'm a member of a party that will not be introducing daylight saving across Queensland. That's been consistent. I think the issue here is as Lord Mayor said that he would introduce daylight saving but now we find out that he's saying that he saying

King: You just answer for yourself. So you will not support it at any time in the next three years.

Jones: No

King: Campbell Newman, you can add for yourself. What's

Newman: Oh look ah I won't be supporting it and I was in the grain industry for many years and I had to fly to Melbourne regularly (inaudible) which is the home of the grain industry and I tell you what, I wished we had daylight saving. So when I was asked that as Lord Mayor I was quite happy to say that. But the trouble is Queensland is a vast geographically diversified state and

King: Okay you've answered the question

Newman: And going around the state it won't actually work for people in other rural and regional towns.

King: Terri Begley next question.

Begley: Next question is on wild rivers legislation and land clearing from Tim.

Tim: Thanks, Queensland has some of the most pristine rivers, beautiful rainforests, protected bushland, got the Great Barrier Reef. If Campbell Newman really cares for the environment why will he not very clearly and unambiguously commit to protecting the Wild Rivers Act, our native, our vegetation management laws and keep them completely intact because they're there to protect our very important environment.

King: Campbell Newman?

Newman: Well Madonna I'm totally committed to protecting the environment of Queensland and that's why I spoke about what I'd done as the Lord Mayor of Brisbane. Don't look at what I say, look at what I have done on the environmental front and

King: But he's talking about wild rivers legislation.

Newman: Yeah no but hang on, look people people can say all sorts of things about positions. Look at what I did. Two million trees will be planted in this four year council term at a cost of \$36 million.

King: But what about the wild rivers legislation.

Newman: I'm happy, I'm trying to get to the wild rivers. Again one needs to look at a person in terms of what they've done in the past to measure what they'll actually do in the future. So today I say I will protect the environment and the wild rivers of Cape York but do I believe the current legislation is working effectively? No I do not. Who agrees with me? Noel Pearson, Richie Ahmat up on Cape York land council, many indigenous mayors on the Cape; and that's a matter of the public record. So I'm saying if

we get into government we will we will work with the traditional owners and other stakeholders to get this legislation right and protect the environment.

King: Kate Jones?

Jones: Well I absolutely support the wild rivers legislation. We are very lucky in Queensland to actually have some of the last remaining pristine rivers in all of the world. As the Minister for the Environment I had the great honour of going and actually seeing the Cape for myself and meeting with local people and say absolutely our position is clear. We will keep the wild rivers legislation.

King: Alright from Margaret Ross via Westside News. Campbell Newman do you believe it's appropriate that your family set up a company to cash in on the flood recovery. Could you ask to explain why his family sought to profit from Australia's worst natural disaster?

Newman: Well look you know that's what we're talking about here. Look is it okay for (inaudible) to go and rebuild roads in Queensland? Is it okay for other companies? What about the carpenters and joiners, the plumbers, the sparkies who've been out fixing up homes? What about all the people who provided services to get rid of waste. I mean come on. My brother in law has a business with a product that he is trying to market both in Australia and internationally. I don't think that his business activities are fair game in this campaign and the people who continue to peddle this stuff are members of the Australian Labor Party. It's been declared and guess what? He hasn't got any work in Queensland. Isn't that enough for people? I mean this is the sort of way this campaign has been running over the past you know six months and I say let's get on and campaign about the issues that matter to Queenslanders.

King: Alright, Terri Begley, the next question?

Begley: Another very quick one is on coal seam gas.

Unknown: I'd like to ask a future minister and perhaps the future premier, what will the state government do to cushion the impacts felt in the rural towns from the coal seam gas and mining expansion. Rents are increasing, damage on rural roads, even hamburger prices are going up. What strategies would you put in place and your governments put in place and what assistance will your governments give to the local governments in those areas that are impacted?

King: We've covered this a little bit but Kate Jones, Sandra and Campbell Newman can I give you thirty seconds each?

Jones: Yeah. Right now the Minister for Local Government is working very closely with the mayors in those communities to introduce new legislation in regards to bumper zones around communities. We were the first government in the world to introduce strategic cropping land which protects the best agricultural land in Queensland and we're actually seeing now conservative governments in other states using Queensland's legislation.

King: Sandra Bayley?

Bayley: The Greens support a moratorium on coal seam gas because the science isn't in. We don't understand the intricacies of the Great Artesian Basin and they are at great risk. Nor do we support the contamination of rural soil. Some of the best farming land in the world is in Queensland and there are gas wells on that land. We ask for a moratorium.

King: I know there was a rally held in Ashgrove in the last couple of weeks on this issue. Just in the audience hands up coal seam gas, is it a big issue to you? Okay Campbell Newman thirty seconds.

Newman: Well coal seam gas is a big issue to me because I want to sort out the problems that have been caused out in those gas fields areas. Particularly the way that this government has allowed this, the exploration permits to be granted all over the place. Why, I want to ask the rhetorical question today. Why is it that the government has granted Arrow Energy exploration licenses in the Fassifern Valley, down Jimboomba, Beaudesert, Boonah, the Scenic Rim council area. Why has that happened? On what basis should we be having a gas production facility out in that part of southeast Queensland?

King: Alright that's the 30 seconds.

Newman: Yep.

King: Okay thank you.

Newman: Well that's the problem we need to fix Madonna.

King: Okay but I want to keep everyone to the same timetable.

Newman: Yeah sure.

King: Terri Begley, the next question?

Begley: Traffic congestion is something else we've been talking about this morning. John?

John: Well I got a question and I'm told I'm not allowed to read it now.

Begley: No no its not that you're not allowed to read it. Can we try and bring it down to the one question. It's to do with the Wardell intersection at Stamford Road.

John: The facts before us now show that you know we've all had time to digest and we're spending \$91 million moving a road nine metres north. The reason for that is supposedly to take the crest off the hill. There's going to be another crest beyond the hill at Imbros Street. They're creating a crest beyond the hill telling us that's the reason they're removing the 17 homes which is you know a large proportion of the \$91 million will be spent. Could you know

King: What's the question though sir?

John: The question is you know as a show of good faith Kate to the constituents of Ashgrove could you now ask the Minister and the DG (?) are to immediately release a full and comprehensive cost benefit analysis on both stage one and stage two of this plan?

King: Kate Jones.

Jones: Yeah thank you John and I have spoken about this numerous times. Can I say that as the member for Ashgrove the number one issue that has been raised with me during that time is fixing the Stamford Road, Wardell Street intersection. I am really proud that we now have a commitment to do that. What this will do is actually reduce waiting times through that intersection and it complements the work that we are doing to boost public transport along the Ferny Grove train line. We're spending over

King: (inaudible) little bit earlier it's just a bandaid. You're just changing a couple of homes. It's no

Jones: Yeah thank you Madonna and thank you for the opportunity to answer that because I did want, I was here to listen to the concerns of the local residents earlier. What I know is that Campbell Newman promised an overpass which is what some of the people mentioned here this morning in the audience. Main Roads will not build an overpass and I've door knocked every street around that intersection and people are

overwhelmingly telling me they do not want an overpass because of the impact that that will have on their homes and the noise levels that would be met and also (inaudible). So there is a number of concerns there. I think that the solution which is on the table is the best one for the future and for the local community.

Begley: We have Clare here who has one of those homes that's going to be resumed, Clare?

Clare: Kate, obviously no one in Samford Road has been door knocked and we'd like to know why the project has been accelerated five years since Campbell stepped into the chair; and why the DTMR (?) contrary to stated policy, I'm sorry, has started purchasing properties. Which we know four have already been purchased and one considerably lower than the valued land, the undeveloped land value (inaudible). We're wondering why you're picking on maybe the aged people in the area?

King: Alright obviously this is a big issue. I have several questions including Luke from Enoggera who contacted Westside News. We will get the answer to that in just a moment but first Kirsten McGregor is in the news room.

(news break)

King: It's 28 minutes to eleven, I'm Madonna King and we're broadcasting live from the seat of Ashgrove this morning. This issue of Wardell and Samford Road intersection is the crux of a lot of questions this morning. Kate Jones, what is Labor going to do or promising to do in relation to this?

Jones: Um, thank you for the opportunity, Madonna. Firstly this is something that Geoff Wilson, Murray Watt and I have campaigned for for years. We got \$1.2 million to extend the turning lane from Wardell Street into Samford Road well before the assertion by Claire that it had anything to do with Campbell Newman. Can I make it very clear, what this intersection upgrade is about doing is addressing the congestion that we see there. As I said, this is the number one concern that I have raised with me. But we do not see a road solution as the only solution. That is why we are also duplicating the train line along there and have boosted the amount of bus services there. What this intersection upgrade will do, Madonna, is add additional lanes to all of the intersection and will reduce waiting times by up to 70 per cent. Main Roads have been purchasing properties, Main roads have been purchasing properties along Samford Road for well over 20 years.

King: Campbell Newman?

Newman: Well, what happened was I was endorsed by the LNP as the candidate; within about three or four days the public record shows after 20 years of inaction, bingo! We get an announcement on an intersection upgrade. We've got a sort of get in and gazump Campbell Newman. Well, I have a plan for the intersection and I'll be circulating the letter in the next few days.

King: Well, why not tell us now?

Newman: I am, Madonna. I will. I'm going to, and this is what I'm saying. We need to do some work on the intersection itself. We do not need to resume 17 homes, but we do need an alternative access into Enoggera Army Barracks back towards, by just the other side of Imbros Street. That's what we need to do and that will cut down ratrunning along Frasers Road, Mitchelton in Enoggera precinct adjacent to Lloyd Street. You will also reduce the pressure on the intersection.

Now, in relation to some of the stuff about duplicating the railway line, well I say to Kate Jones and to Murray Watt and to Geoff Wilson, the big thing you need to do is build park and ride carparks along the railway line to cut down on the congestion caused by cars in local streets. The trouble is Madonna, that this state government has a policy, they will not build park and rides within 10k's of the CBD. (Inaudible) website.

King: Alright. Is that right, Kate Jones?

Jones: No, that's not right because right now, Campbell, you would be well aware that we are building up to 1000 carparks at Ferny Grove, that is happening right now. Secondly I have a commitment...also I have...I have from (inaudible) years of lobbying the Federal Government have a commitment from defence that they will be delivering an intersection, I'm sorry, an entrance to the barracks exactly where Campbell Newman is talking about. I've letterboxed the whole community telling them that that's already going to happen.

King: Terri Begley, our next question.

Begley: And this another one related to road congestion, a different intersection. This is from Kevin.

Kevin: I am a member of the LNP. The worst traffic intersection is not over at Wardell Street. The worst traffic intersection is over

here at the corner of Jubilee Terrace, Coopers Camp Road going through to Boundary Street past, towards government house. Now it was understood that that was planned to be solved in 2003 and I understand Wendy Edmonds killed it. Why in the devil. The traffic there's unbelievable.

King: What's your question though sir?

Kevin: The question is why don't you fix the intersection at Jubilee, Coopers Camp Road. Going over there the traffic is the same that goes along Wardell Street.

King: Okay, either party got a plan for that area?

Newman: Well Madonna I certainly recognise that that needs to be dealt with but remember Labor killed those intersection upgrades many many years ago and that's why on my side of politics we're all somewhat amused just in terms of the irony of the thing that the announcement was made back in April on this Wardell, Samford thing. We need a comprehensive look at the whole thing.

King: But you say you need a comprehensive look at it. The election could be around the corner. Don't you need to get that out now so that you can make a decision?

Newman: Madonna we will but the election may be as late as June next year and you know I I think I've got to have a few little local policy announcements to make along the way. Maybe we'll see an announcement on Coopers Camp and Jubilee Terrace from the Labor Party as well.

King: Kate Jones, will we?

Jones: Well in all honesty I think that if Campbell Newman is telling everybody today. Campbell if you're telling them you have an alternate plan I think they deserve to know what that is. And can I say that in regards to that intersection that actually is just in Andrew Fraser's but the other one we've talked about an I've heard when I was here to listen to the local residents earlier they talked about the intersection at Waterworks Road and Jubilee Terrace. Waterworks Road is a council road. Campbell, you were the Lord Mayor of Brisbane for seven years and you never approached the Main Roads Minister ever to try to get that fixed. What I am saying is from being on the ground, from being part of this local community I get the opportunity to talk to people about the issues that need to be fixed and that's exactly what I'm delivering on. As I said earlier one (inaudible) I'm just saying that this is happening right now. This is work

that is happening now because you know we keep our commitment.

King: Can I get you to respond?

Newman: Oh just in response, love to respond and I don't know if councillor Geraldine Knapp's still here or if she's left but if she was, it's a bit, if she was here it's a pity she's left. She would tell everybody that back, just prior to me becoming the mayor, Jim Soorley had a plan to deal with Jubilee and Waterworks Road. Wanted the state government to actually co-operate. Remember it was the Beattie government at the time. They said no and I, when I got into office I talked to Geraldine about these matters and she said well it's not worth pursuing, this Labor government won't undertake the work. So they've already killed the project. Drawings were done, preliminary drawings, a lot of costing work done. Could've been done for a lot less than it costs today if it'd been done back then.

King: Alright. Okay. Sandra Bayley, just briefly.

Bayley: (Inaudible) Greens don't think about transport, isn't it? We know that from worldwide research that widening roads increases the number of traffic. They're attracted to a wider road, and that's not ultimately the solution in a place whose population is growing so rapidly. The sorts of things that are happening are more attention to quality affordable public transport, even transport sharing, even car sharing. That's actually working in places like Singapore.

King: Alright.

Bayley: We need to think beyond the square.

King: Which party are you likely to give your preferences to? Have you got a view on which party is closer to your line of thinking?

Bayley: Contrary to popular belief, the Greens don't give their preferences to anybody. The Greens have always said everybody votes for (inaudible – Madonna talks over Sandra) their own preference.

King: (Inaudible) giving them preferences. Okay so you won't be giving your preferences.

Bayley: We can't. Not only in the Senate, in the federal election can parties give preferences.

King: Will you be encouraging your voters to give a preference to anyone?

Bayley: No thought has really been given to that. At the moment, no.

King: Alright. Dick calls from Warana Street, The Gap says "Please would you be kind enough to ask when the T2 on Waterworks Road is going to be scrapped, especially eastbound traffic. It's been scrapped on Coro Drive and now it's time to do the same for Waterworks Road."

Jones: Well, it's a council road, Madonna.

King: Alright. Terri Begley.

Begley: This is another question related to town planning. Broadens out the issue a bit, from Elizabeth.

Elizabeth: Hello. I'm Elizabeth Hanley from Brisbane Residents United. Campbell Newman, this is a question addressed to you, but I'd be interested in others' views as well. You, when you were lord mayor you often said that town planning issues were very much affected by the legislation from the state government. I'm wondering what you are going to change about that planning legislation that would mean that there was more community consultation and that consultation was listened to.

Newman: Well, Elizabeth, I thank you for that. We all know that the Brisbane City Council over the last few years had the job of planning for about another 140 or 150,000 new dwellings under the state government's regional plan. I would like to see those sorts of planning exercises undertaken across the state in a far more consultative way by local government. I'd like to make sure that we undertake what I've called neighbourhood planning in Brisbane where we actually start at the beginning and give the community a real chance to shape the way that the community will go forward. I always believe that we should be letting people understand and be involved in discussing, debating the trade-offs. You know we can talk about sustainability issues, do we want to have better public transport which involves, you know, perhaps more dwellings along railway lines or busways. These things need to be weighed up between issues about saving green space, ah, and the like. So it's a pretty complex issue. I'm very passionate about town planning, but that's the sort of thing I'd like to, the approach I'd like to see across the state.

King: Kate Jones?

Jones: Um, I think that definitely what I hear when I'm walking around and doorknocking in the streets is that people are concerned about density in their local streets and I know for a fact that it's been a big deal in Mitchelton. That's why we lobbied really hard with the Brisbane City Council to get them to change their plan out there because the density was so high. I think across the board, people want to protect the lifestyle that we have here. We live in a great part of Brisbane and we want to keep it that way.

King: Alright. Okay. Let's just move on to the next question. Terri?

Begley: Mandy in the audience is on health.

Mandy: Mine's actually on disabilities and I should just declare that I've only just recently joined the Greens after being really disillusioned with both the old parties. Can you, particularly to Campbell Newman and Kate Jones, can you tell me the process and how long it should take Disabilities Queensland to link a person with a disability to deliver support services and whether those support services are uniform and accessible across the state?

Jones: Thank you very much for the question, and we've actually met in my office as well, so it's lovely to see you here again here today. One of the things I'm probably most proud of of the Government is increasing the disabilities budget from less than \$300 million to over \$1.8 billion. We did this because this is a core Labor value of looking after the most vulnerable people in our community. Disability funding is really important and something that I will continue to campaign for. I think the fact that we have so many more packages for people. I think that should quickly and as I said we will continue to work together to support that.

King: Campbell Newman?

Newman: Look, um, I totally agree with the sentiments that Kate has expressed. That's exactly the values of myself and my team and particularly I say today we also are keen to see how we can work with the Commonwealth Government should we be elected on the implementation of the recommendations I think with the Productivity Commission in relation to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. We need to get this into place in Australia...

Mandy: (Inaudible) I want to know how long (inaudible) take?

Newman: I don't remember Kate Jones...

Mandy: (Inaudible) six months...

Newman: Yep.

Mandy: I still do not have services even though I have been asking for nine months. I want to know how long you think it should take for a person with a disability to be linked with a service.

Newman: Look, I hear you're upset, but the lady who's just answered the question is in the government. I'm not in the government.

Jones: I'm Kate, Campbell.

Newman: And I'll...well, I'm happy to answer the question. I think government departments in the state of Queensland need to actually perform in a real can-do way. They do need to be more customer focused and deliver for people and that's one of the big things we'll do if we become the government.

King: Alright. Can we move to the next question. We've got so many more to get through. Let's try and see if we can get through as many as we can, Terri.

Begley: This one's from Michael, and you are a member of the Labor Party?

Michael: I'm a long-suffering member of the Labor Party and my question for you, Campbell, ah, with your presidential-style campaign and flouting the conventions of the Westminster system, does this indicate a complete dreadful lack of talent in the LNP and can all Queenslanders assume that the LNP, it's just a case of same circus, different clowns? (Audience laugh, applaud)

Newman: Well, all I can say is I am passionate about the state of Queensland. I don't believe it's acceptable that we're spiralling towards \$85 billion worth of debt thanks to the Treasurer who was here earlier on today. Hundred million dollars a week interest payments in 2014. Think how many schools, hospitals, even footy stadiums or road upgrades you could do with that sort of money. I'm not going to put up with a government which has a trail of disasters and waste and inefficiency.

King: But this isn't answering the question...

Newman: Like the health payroll system. Well, there was pretty inflammatory stuff...

King: (Inaudible) and I want you to answer...he's saying...

Newman: Madonna, I'm passionate about this state. I am standing to sort things out. I delivered as the lord mayor of Brisbane and by gosh, if people get behind me in Ashgrove, I will deliver for the state of Queensland (audience applauds).

King: But are you concerned...the question related to the talent level in the parliamentary party. That was what the basis of the question was. Are you satisfied that elected will be sufficient talent for you to put together a really good government?

Newman: Absolutely. We have fantastic people from all walks of life, unlike our opponents who have a very, very limited career background. We've got people like Lisa France of Bribie Island standing for the seat of Pumicestone, an environmental scientist, a young woman with a family, who's had a career, who's been involved in getting major projects going. We've got Deb Frecklington up at Nanango who's got a legal practice. We've got Le...

King: Okay. Back to Terri Begley, next question. That's okay.

Newman: Thank you.

King: That's okay, thank you.

Begley: Cost of living pressures is what's upsetting Tony.

Tony: My question is to the future member of Ashgrove and the future premier of Queensland. Campbell, the cost of living is a huge issue. If elected to government, what plans does a Campbell Newman-led LNP government have to relieve the burden?

Newman: Well, the big thing is to stop the waste and inefficiency in government expenditure, which is leading to this \$85 billion worth of debt. If we get that under control, we can get the impost on families and businesses under control. So I talked earlier on about power prices, water prices, registration. Together the initiatives we have will save \$330 per annum on average in home, for homeowners in Southeast Queensland. We're going to get rid of Andrew Fraser's \$7000 big tax slug on buying a family home. And I tell you now, we'll be looking wherever we can to help people save money, and that is all about keeping government charges under control. I mentioned the rego freeze earlier on.

King: Alright, very briefly Kate Jones?

Jones: Well, I think there's a number of things that Campbell Newman has said that I think I have a right to respond to, Madonna, and I think there's some really key facts here. One is we've delivered the largest concessions budget ever in the Queensland Budget, which is more relief and scrapped the ambulance levy for every single Queenslander. But I would really like to believe Campbell Newman when he says he is going to address all those problems. But you said, Campbell, to look at your record. On your record, you, Clem 7 cost four times what you said it was going to cost. The bicycle scheme cost three times more than what you said it was going to cost. King George Square cost three times what you said it was going to cost. I do not have faith that he will be able to deliver, judging from his own record. We are committed to ensuring that all...

King: Okay, I think you've had your chance to...

Jones: I think that is your record. Terri Begley?

Begley: Nicole has a question for Kate Jones.

Nicole: Kate, you resigned as environment minister to focus on your local area. In the event that ALP wins and in the event that you retain the seat of Ashgrove, do you rule out the possibility of running for a ministry. I mean that seems rather cynical and betting each way. Thank you.

Jones: Thank you. Thank you for the question, and I absolutely ruled that out when I made the announcement. This was not an easy decision for me, but as I said, I stood to be the member of Ashgrove. Being a minister was a great privilege, but it wasn't why I stood for parliament. I am really committed to being the local member here, and you know...

King: So you would say no if offered a ministry?

Jones: And I have said no. I said no on the first day and I stand by my word.

King: Are you wanting to say something on that? No. Alright. Thank you. We've got about ten more questions to get through. It would be great to get through the next one. Terri?

Begley: Tony?

Tony: Yes, my name's Tony. I'm just recent, recent member of the LNP. I joined because I'm worried about our finances. Now, the question for Kate, ah, there's...I found these (inaudible) flyers which that one looks like an LNP one obviously and it's

obviously from Labor telling all sorts of rubbish. Kate, given that you said you would run a clean campaign, what happened to that?

Jones: I think what we've seen this week is an unprecedented apology from the Leader of the LNP on the dirt files that have emerged. I don't think that serves anyone and I don't think anyone in this room supports that kind of level of politics. Where Labor members' children go to school does not have any relevance in any campaigning in my opinion. I think all of us should lift our game...

King: That's not the question. That's not the question that was asked.

Jones: Sorry...what I'm saying is, Madonna, is that what we are seeing is that the LNP have a dirt file that we've never seen before including where our kids go to school. I will never campaign like that. I don't believe in that kind of campaigning. The people that have voted for me twice in this room know that I do not engage in that kind of politics.

King: Alright, Maggie from Dorset Street said "I want to say I'm sick to death of the pecuniary interest and dirt unit scandals nonsense. We Ashgrovians have lived pretty peaceful out here until the circus came to town. It's grubby and we won't have it. Can we please get back to the issues?" And I think that's (inaudible) in all (inaudible)

Jones: I agree entirely. I agree entirely.

King: Alright. Next question, Terri Begley.

Begley: This is about an issue, not dirt?

Martin: Yeah, my name's Martin and I'm not affiliated to any political party. I guess my question is to Mr Newman. You said you'd scrap the waste levy. Now one of the things that the waste levy does that is I have a very passionate devotion to is the expansion of national parks. One of the things we've got right now is a promise by this government to expand, more than double protected areas in Queensland by 2020 to save our threatened wildlife. Now, one of the things that was going to pay for that...

King: What was the question though, sorry?

Martin: Yeah. One of the things that was going to pay for that was the waste levy. The three questions I have is are you going to

scrap the government's target, do you have another target and how are you going fund it?

Newman: Okay. Well in terms of the waste levy, yes, we'll scrap the waste levy. And I need to point out though the last election this government was asked were you going to bring in a waste levy, they said no. They said they'd keep the 8-cent a litre fuel subsidy, they said yes. They didn't tell us anything about privatising \$17 billion worth of assets. I am going to answer the question. I've got to make these points. So the waste levy is another broken commitment. It is another tax. It will cost particularly small businesses. I negotiated with Minister Jones at the time and indicated initially that she would have our support because other mayors were going to support it. But that was on the basis that after the election they said "Bingo! We know we promised that we wouldn't do this, but we're now doing it."

King: Alright. Can we answer the question now?

Newman: So the way we are committed to expanding national parks, but we're also looking...(someone interrupts) Well, we'll make our announcements prior to the election.

King: But what is the answer to that question because we're just running out of time.

Newman: The answer is we will be expanding national parks and we're committed to protecting the environment of Queensland. But there are also ways you can protect natural...there are also ways you can protect natural areas in Queensland without declaring national parks. You can have lease existing leaseholders on the land and actually tie them up in appropriate environmental causes to also make sure those lands are protected and it's one of the big things is we have a whole range of national parks which are not being maintained properly. The Auditor-General said only 17 per cent of national parks in Queensland have proper management plans. That's not on.

King: Okay. Alright, let's go to the next question. Thank you.

Begley: Quick question from Ian?

Ian: Campbell, the solar feed-in tariff at present given to us by the government to encourage solar electricity generation, will this continue if you are elected premier?

Newman: Yes.

King: Next question, thank you.

Ian: At the same rate?

King: At the same rate?

Newman: Well, yes.

Ian: Because in the south, Liberal premiers have...

King: Yes but...

Newman: No, but I've given you an answer. Yes.

King: He said yes, and it will be at the same rate. Can we go to the next question?

David: My name is David. I worked in sewerage for 19 years. During the last flood, massive amounts of people were affected by floods and I worked nearly three weeks straight, 15 hours a day cleaning up its mess. More and more units are over, are being built, multi-storey (inaudible) are being built in the (inaudible) sewerage line which are not built to handle all this extra toilets and wash areas. And it's getting worse by the year.

King: So what's your question sir?

David: So in the future there'll be all these flats and we're going to have a worse, more people in Weller (?) affected by sewerage overflow. We had one woman at Everton Park had to walk through sewerage because she had a newborn baby.

King: Alright. Okay. So, so, and I think also on the floods if I can tie that with a question from Bronwyn Morris to the Westside News. "I'd like to ask what Campbell Newman's policy is regarding building in flood zones within Brisbane and other areas. Under his lord mayoral leadership, his council approved high-rise developments in flood areas like Milton and West End. Is there a way both of you can answer this flood question (inaudible)"

Newman: Well, Madonna, um, I was the guy who was talking about flooding in the drought. So in September 2006, and I do say this because my team and I are proud of this, we actually stood up, did a media conference down at the Powerhouse and said we're warning people about flooding and actually planning and all the things we want to do to try and protect people. At the time we were laughed at because it was during

the drought. And I roll forward to about a year ago when again I warned about flooding issues. So we've done a whole lot of stuff over the last sort of five years as a council to actually tighten up town planning.

King: So you're saying trust your record on that.

Newman: Well, I think of all the local governments perhaps with the exception of the Gold Coast City Council who's done some great work, I think the BCC has led the way over the last few years and it's acknowledged as that.

King: Alright.

Newman: And if there was an issue, well, I imagine the flood commission will have some things to say.

King: Alright. Sandra Bayley, briefly.

Bayley: Large insurance, reinsurance industries like Munich Re are saying the greatest threat to their existence is climate change. And climate change is going to be expressed to us through extreme events like those we witnessed recently. There've always been floods and fires and droughts. But they're getting more intense. So we need to be prepared.

King: Okay. And Kate Jones briefly.

Jones: Well, traditionally local planning in regards to floods has always been done by councils, but after the significant event I want to thank that gentleman for all the hours of work that he did do volunteering in cleaning up. That is exactly why we sped up the Reconstruction Authority and also had a commission of inquiry so in the future we can get those laws right. Sandra's right. We're going to experience more intense events like this and that's exactly what the commission will go to the heart of.

King: Terri?

Begley: The question related to the ambulance levy from Ruth.

Ruth: Kate, after the state election you sent out, after the State Budget you sent out a letter about the... You sent out a letter to the community about the things you had done in the Budget. Your first bit was you had got rid of the ambulance levy. Now, I'm a pensioner and I have been for eight years and I had never paid an ambulance levy. So I mean I think you should stop sending out lies.

Begley: Okay, we've got time for one more quick question.

King: Sorry, you were saying?

Are you a member of the LNP, ma'am? (No reply) Oh well, let's move on from there.

A final question, a very quick final question. Who are we going to do?

Jones: I'd like to respond. I'm happy to respond, which is Ruth, I know you. You've campaigned against me many times, but I can say this very clearly, Ruth. I think everybody in this room supports all families getting \$115 relief every year. I take the cost of living issue seriously. That's why we've delivered that reform, but I think more importantly in our local area, we want good local services and that is why what I have delivered as a local member, reopened the police station the LNP closed, delivered a new ambulance station, invested \$100 million in local schools. This is making Ashgrove a better place. I just (inaudible) Ashgrove or (inaudible)

King: I'm going to forego this question, I'm sorry, and I'm sure I will let the candidates answer you privately after this. Could I ask you to give me or give everyone here and the voters of Ashgrove the reason they should elect you on polling day. And we'll start with Sandra. Briefly.

Bayley: I'm standing because I recognise the greater issues. I think we do need to look at the higher issues that are facing us globally and that includes the destruction that's happening at our hands of environment, of climate and that the future's going to be bleak and difficult unless we take a different view.

King: Okay. Kate Jones, why should people support you?

Jones: Because I am a true local. This is our local community and we deserve to have a strong local voice. As I've said I've got a clear plan for what I'll deliver in the next term and also my strong record in the past. I think today's debate, Madonna, is instructive of what will happen with Campbell. Campbell has spent very little time today talking about what he will deliver in Ashgrove.

King: Alright, Campbell...

Jones: A stark difference.

King: (People start applauding) Campbell Newman, why should people (people applaud) elect you on polling day?

Newman: Well, Madonna, people should elect me because basically I'm in politics to serve, not because I want the job, because I want to serve the community. I want to serve the Ashgrove community because I am a part of this community as well and I have been for 25 years and also I want to serve the people of Queensland. I've got a plan for this state to get it back on track, to get the economy going, to cut waste and inefficiency, deliver infrastructure and make this a better place for all Queenslanders. (Cheers from the audience)

Jones: None of that was in Ashgrove, Campbell.

King: That brings to a close our candidates panel. And whether you're going to vote for anyone on this stage or someone else, I think we should all respect that almost every candidate who sits for a seat on election day wants to make Queensland a better place. To the candidates of Ashgrove, thank you very much. Sandra Bayley, Kate Jones and Campbell Newman.

I'll be back on Monday for my last week on air. What should I do next Friday, you let me know: king.madonna@abc.net.au. I'm looking for great ideas. Thank you. It's eleven o'clock.

ENDS
AJ/KC

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