

“A New Approach”

An Interview with Linda Burney, Nowra Youth Centre, 27 February, 2015



“Labor is making big, interesting policy announcements and our slogan is ‘a new approach’”.

As Mike Baird and Luke Foley were having their first leaders debate Linda Burney visited Nowra and spoke to a large representative audience at the Nowra Youth Centre. The following interview with Linda Burney is available free to working papers subscribers for 48 hours from 8pm 27 February 2015.

Some of the remarks Linda made in the interview include:

- “Most journalists are now saying that in the NSW State election Labor will pick up between fifteen and seventeen seats. We are hoping for twenty four or five”.
- “There has been a change in the Australian political psyche. People are saying we don’t have to have a government for two terms if we don’t like what they are doing. People have found their voice in South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and I hope also, in four weeks, in NSW”.



Fiona Phillips, Labor Candidate for South Coast, Linda Burney, Glen Kolomeitz, Labor Candidate for Kiama

“The quality of Labor candidates is outstanding”.

- “Labor is already out-campaigning the government”.
- “I may not be liked by everyone but I am respected as a leader and as someone who brings people together and who heals divisions.”
- “I have done the hard yards”
- “Labor was scarred by ICAC and deservedly so”.
- **“The Labor party is changing. It had no choice but to change.”**
- “Reinvigorating the State economy is about jobs. We will use procurement strategies and we will build things and we will support small business. Watch this space over the next four weeks.
- “Indigenous community leadership will be brought into government and the bureaucracy under a Foley Labor government.”
- “Every Minister and every government department has a responsibility in Aboriginal affairs and they have to be held responsible for their service delivery and in achieving their key performance indicators”.



Linda Burney and Shoalhaven Council Indigenous Liaison officer Margaret Simoes

“State governments can do a lot. They have a role in the delivery of most services, job creation, big tenders, rental support for community organisations, working with local government, providing space, training, what happens in schools, what happens in courts.. State governments have enormous responsibility. What I am most concerned about is that the Baird government has abrogated its responsibilities by contracting out services to the non-government sector. This is not good enough. There is a role for the non-government sector but it is not to let the State government off the hook and to abrogate its responsibilities in child protection, violence against women, community health.. When a government says to the non-government sector this is your job now, leave us alone, go away and do these things it is absolutely the wrong way to go.”

“One of the terrible things that has happened at Federal and State levels is the defunding of advocacy services. That is the perfect way to get rid of the voices who hold the government accountable. If this is allowed to continue it will be a disaster down the track.”

“The privatisation of social services defunds social capital and social capital is becoming more and more diminished. Governments will rue the day when they have eroded the social capital of our community.”

Would you go so far as to say that another stolen generation is in the making?

“I’d go so far as to say that there never has been so many Aboriginal children in care that have been placed outside the Aboriginal Child Placement principle. This is against the law in NSW.”