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Greens call on major parties to declare policy detail

Greens candidate for Bega, Harriett Swift today called on fellow candidates for Bega to reveal their party's full suite of policies ahead of the March state election. This follows the launch of The Greens new website by Lead Upper House candidate MP David Shoebridge last week.

"The voters on the Far South Coast deserve to know where all parties stand on the issues which will affect their communities. The Greens are committed to a transparent campaign – which includes detailing policies across 53 areas available on the newly launched website.

"We know that the Labor Party has struggled to find a candidate for Bega and that candidates in many seats are trying to distance themselves from brand Labor.

"On the big issues that matter the Coalition remains silent and the latest Galaxy poll shows 83% of voters think Barry O'Farrell needs to explain his policies before the election.

"The Coalition's 'Action Plan' is scant on detail – this is not acceptable for an alternative Government to fail to detail how their policies will be different from Labor's. The Coalition has had over a decade to put their ideas forward and tell us exactly what they would do in Government.

"For the far south coast I would particularly like to hear how the Coalition would bring improved public transport services to the region.

"I want to know how they will solve the funding impasse that threatens the future of Aboriginal Health Services on the coast.

"As well, I want to hear specific commitments on how they will expand and upgrade health, dental, aged care and disability services throughout the electorate," Ms Swift said.

"All the signs are that Labor and the Coalition are planning a policy-free election campaign," Ms Swift said.

"The Greens believe voters have a right to know what parties stand for and will be leading the contest of ideas in this campaign, offering principled, forward thinking policies," she said.

The new website can be found at: <http://nsw.greens.org.au/>

The Greens are also set to distribute 55,000, 32 page 'policy snapshot' booklets through cafes, shops etc and via local lower house campaigns from early February. View it here:

<http://nsw.greens.org.au/content/nsw-policy-snapshots>

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media release