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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**15 January 2015**

### **LNP candidates: Missing in Action**

Local LNP candidates seem to be running scared when it comes to talking with voters about the environment, according to NQCC Coordinator Wendy Tubman.

‘We are not sure if the local LNP candidates were not game to face the locals on environmental issues, whether they have been effectively gagged, or whether they just don’t personally rate the environment as important’ Ms Tubman said.

‘But not one of the candidates from Townsville, Mundingburra or Thuringowa responded to invitations to participate in NQCC’s ‘Environment and the Election forum’ sent on 6 and 7 January.

‘Instead, ex-Federal MP for Herbert Peter Lindsay responded on behalf of all three, saying that ‘in a short election campaign the candidates time is at a premium’. He proposed that the three candidates be represented at one forum by Minister for the Environment Andrew Powell.

‘NQCC quickly pointed out to Mr Lindsay that the whole idea of the forums was to enable local people to hear from and question the local candidates who were seeking to represent them in Brisbane. We see that as an important part of the democratic process.

‘Despite this, Mr Lindsay told NQCC that he ‘judged’ his preferred format ‘would be best for [NQCC] and [the LNP] team’.

‘It is disappointing that, for the first time in the long tradition of these forums, no local LNP candidate will be participating. But the invitations remain open’, Ms Tubman said.

**Further information: Wendy Tubman 0428 987 535**

**Editorial note:** The Townsville forum will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 20 January at Townsville Yacht Club, Plume Street in the city. The Mundingburra one will be at 7pm on Wednesday 21 January at the Jubilee Bowls Club, Burdekin Street, Mundingburra. There will be no forum in Thuringowa.