

NSW Local Land Services Greater Sydney Region

2017 Local Board Member Election (3 to be Elected)

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ROWE, Simon Michael

Occupation:

Scientist and fat lamb producer

Being in my late 30's, I will bring a balanced, enthusiastic younger perspective on how the state government can assist our local farmers and absentee landholders cope with the rising challenges of achieving a successful business or lifestyle in 2017.

With specialist skills reading the natural resource management landscape, my role will be to guide the LLS organisation in matching the needs of our local industry and ensure an environment where politics and policy assist, not hinder landholder success.

My work here goes back 12 years where I started as a Landcare officer and I have since been involved in managing contracts related to fish habitat and water quality worth \$6.9M across the country. I would contribute my understanding of the Landcare ethic and business acumen especially as it relates to seeking new opportunities, maintaining transparent decision making and relevance to local industry.

I live and breathe extension, love speaking with fellow farmers and hope to serve you as a ratepayer in this role.

Qualifications:

- 2015 SafeWork NSW Mentoring Program
- 2009 National Seafood Industry Leadership Program
- 2008 Internal auditing certificate
- 2001 Bachelor of Science (Hon) Research (UTS)
- 2000 Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Urban Horticulture

Positions Held:

- Program Manager for OceanWatch Australia – Marine NRM
- Deputy Chair of the NSW Fish Habitat partnership
- Deputy Chair of the Fullerton Hadley Landcare Group
- Member – Greater Sydney LLS Community Advisory Group
- Secretariat for the Australian Culvert Research and Development Initiative and the NRM National Marine Expert Advisory Group.

I currently sit on a number of panels, networks and committees furthering my understanding of the work of the LLS in the context of the wider field of science and triple bottom line natural resource management.

These include:

- The Georges River Combined Council Committee
- The Lower Hawkesbury Estuary management Committee
- The Great Barrier Reef Wetlands Network
- The Australian Shellfish Restoration Network
- The Australian Mangrove and Saltmarsh network
- GS Regional Landcare Facilitator, Sydney's Salty Communities, fish friendly marine infrastructure steering committees

Key Skills:

- Exceptional interpersonal skills, communication and experience in liaising with diverse stakeholders including government scientists, farmers, fishers, non-English speaking community, businesses.
- Comprehensive knowledge of coastal, estuarine and marine processes and land based production and environmental issues.
- Highly organised with a demonstrated ability to manage multiple complex projects in-house and remotely within time and budget.
- Extensive experience in preparing grant applications and reporting, providing solutions to complex environmental issues and applying the expertise of other professionals towards common goals.
- Extensive experience in working with staff including budgets, work plans, head and sub contracts and project logistics
- Advanced experience in designing and delivering activities to change behaviours, increase best practice and communication project objectives.

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MATTHEWS, Tally

Studied a Bachelor of Systems Agriculture at UWS Hawkesbury.

Currently employed by Ace Ohlsson P/L as a Horticultural Agronomist (2000 to current). My role as an agronomist allows me to work locally and regionally with a diverse array of Agricultural producers, be it vegetables, turf, flowers, fruit and livestock. I also play a role in staff management, budgeting, forecasting and other matters concerning the day to day running of the business.

I have been a primary producer since 1994 producing vegetables, turf and beef cattle. Winning the NSW Farmers "Young Farmer of the Year" award in 2008. Also that year I was a nominee for Ausveg 'Young Farmer of the Year'.

Besides agronomy and farming I have diversified my business profile with Windsor Ice Cream Café and Tractor 828 at Ebenezer which is a modern café showcasing local and regional produce, in these businesses I employ many staff and have to deal with current issues and regulations surrounding OHS/WHS/HR in the workplace.

I have been involved in a number of industry and community based projects, having a leadership and fundamental role in these projects. For example a founding member of The Sydney Field Vegetable Demonstration Farm at Richmond, One of four organisers of the highly successful "NSW Horticultural Dinner", I have been involved with the RAS of NSW as an exhibitor, supplier, volunteer and Judge, having held positions within the Western District Exhibit. I have been, and an ongoing judge and supporter of both Hawkesbury and Camden Shows. Judging at Robertson Pasture comps as well as several showgirl events locally and regionally.

I feel my experience having lived, worked and as a LLS rate payer within this region should make me a very desirable applicant as i believe I satisfy the requested criteria desired for the LLS Board position.

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HOOPER, Sean

Current occupation or position:

Chief Financial Officer & Company Secretary
Barefoot Power
I'm also a grazier and a private forester

Qualifications:

Chartered Accountant
Graduate Member – Australian Institute of Company Directors (that is I have had the pre-requisite director training for this position)

Employment experience:

Senior executive with over 30 years' accountancy and finance experience in energy, natural resources, IT&T and investment banking. My focus has been on the commercial and financial aspects of both listed and unlisted companies. I have held director roles with ASX listed companies and I was previously a director with NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Required expertise	
leadership, strategic planning and management	As an executive manager I have had many years of leadership experience having led small and large teams of up to 146. Being the chief financial officer of large companies I have had deep experience in strategic planning and management. I have more than 15 years' experience working with Boards of Directors as a director, company secretary or chief financial officer.
working with industry, government	I am a private forester and grazier. Please refer to the LLS spring 2016 newsletter where I was featured highlighting the working relationship with LLS.
audit, financial control and reporting and risk management	I am a chartered accountant with a background in audit. I have a high level of financial control and risk management experience gained as the chief financial officer of ASX listed companies, private companies and as the Director, Financial and Operational Business Services with Forests NSW.
primary industries	Previously I was a director with the department of primary industries.
emergency management, especially natural disaster emergencies	My experience includes being a deputy captain with the NSW Rural Fire Service
biodiversity conservation	As mentioned in the spring 2016 LLS newsletter we have been active in taking action to prevent erosion and improve water quality on our grazing property. This has included the planting of thousands of trees to support wildlife, in particular the migrating swift parrot.

I have already completed the required training with Australian Institute of Company Directors that is a requirement of this appointment.

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TRAHAR, Peter William

Nominee's Qualifications:

Bachelor of Science
Graduate Diploma of Industrial Engineering
Master of Business Administration

Experience, Knowledge and Skills:

Cattle stud breeding at Bilpin since 1986

Peter Trahar & his wife Peta have been partners in Woodgreen Angus Stud, Bilpin, since 1986 and have successfully participated in local Shows & at Sydney Royal.

Woodgreen has sold bulls, females and embryos throughout SE Australia.

Peter's first term (April 2014 – May 2017) as an elected Director of Greater Sydney Local Land Services has shown him the benefits and challenges of this organisation. He looks forward to continuing his work to:

- improve effectiveness through management measures and project design
- maintain focus on:
 - Delivering locally for ratepayers and funding bodies without duplication.
 - Greater Sydney's challenges as a major gateway to Australia

Leadership strategic planning, management:

Peter has managed his own consulting business since 1985 working with leading companies in Australia, US, UK and Africa.

Since 2007 he has been a director of:

- Angus Society of Australia, finishing his allowed term in May 2016
- Certified Angus Group Pty Ltd, being Chairman from 2011 and finishing in February 2017

He worked with Angus Society of Australia to:

- Improve governance and establish a new Constitution that was accepted by all states and over 90% of membership
- Establish the Angus Beef Information Nucleus.

Community participation

Since 2001 Peter has served with and was Chair (2006-2008) of the Midwest Angus Association and on the NSW State Committee of Angus Australia.

He worked with Hawkesbury Highlands Tourism and assisted in its incorporation into Hills Hawkesbury and Riverlands Tourism.

For number of years Peter has hosted visiting groups of Japanese trade delegates and students at 'Woodgreen' and presented 'Angus in Australia'.

Audit, financial control and risk management

Peter was a member of the Audit and Risk Committee of the Angus Society of Australia. He managed risk for the Collectors' Plant Fair from 2005 to 2015

Primary Industries and providing services

The Angus Society of Australia provides genetic information, extension, youth development and marketing services to its 3000 members throughout Australia.

Contemporary biosecurity programs – Animal and Plant

Peter's MN3 (now JBAS 8) stud joined the Johnes Beef MAP virtually at its inception. His involvement in running the Collectors' Plant Fair has acquainted him with weed management.

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McDOUGALL, Ian Lanham Ross

I am a current elected Director of GSLLS and a past Director of RLPB. I am a retired Lawyer having been in Private Practice, run a Legal Aid Office for the Commonwealth from 1975-1984, and then as a Magistrate in NSW for 14 years from 1984.

I have attended all Board and Committee meetings during my last term. I am on the "Biosecurity and Emergency Response, and the "Workplace Safety" sub-committees

Three years ago when I nominated for the inaugural Board I believed the LLS, by reason of it's structure, had the potential to be subject to over regulation by government protocol which could operate to negate it's purpose as a "Local" entity. What eventuated with Greater Sydney was very different. The Board has always argued that "Local" means management at a local level, which is what has developed, and I will always oppose any form of governance otherwise. The appointed Directors turned out to be a group of 4 individuals, each with very diverse backgrounds and each of whose skills complemented one another. The other 2 elected Directors were in agriculture and cattle, astute, and complemented those appointed.

This has resulted in a very united Board which approaches GSLLS and the services it provides in a professional and businesslike manner and makes decisions accordingly. Decisions made are based on ratepayers and stakeholders needs. The Board's priority is servicing these needs, delivering, and ensuring that resources we have are directed to our ratepayers.

The Demonstration Farm and the compost trial have been great successes, and there are plans to extend these. "The Regional Weeds Plan" is almost complete, and our partnership with NSW Farmers Central Horticulture has delivered funding from NSW Landcare for a coordinator to work with growers. Pest animals, animal health, and plant biosecurity services are being delivered as required. We have secured greater investment in biosecurity to protect the industry. Once a risk gets past the Port or the Airport it becomes a matter for GSLLS and we responded quickly to the Fire Ant incursion at Port Botany. We have introduced a fairer NCC rating system. We have in place a comprehensive strategic plan, and projects in train which benefit ratepayers.

The new Biosecurity Act (and Regulations) is something which we will need to consider shortly in relation to implementation.

The originally appointed Directors have been re-appointed, as the Board has worked well and in unison as a team, assisted by the professionalism of the managers which it employs. The Board has supported the development of an efficient and cohesive organisation and it is critical for ratepayers that such be continued.

Over the last three years the task of setting GSLLS up has not been easy. Most of the hard work has now been done, but some still remains, thus I would like to again be involved for a further three years.

When considering me for your vote I ask you also to consider each of the other retiring elected Directors, Matt Collins and Peter Tahar.

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WADDELL, Warren

Education:

BA Human Resources – Macquarie University – majoring in International relations, politics and Indigenous economic sustainability.

History:

Fifth generation of fruit producers within the Hills District. Originally citrus, then Stone fruit and currently Persimmons and Peach bloom.

Travelled extensively throughout Europe, North America and South East Asia.

Owned and operated several small businesses with a focus on hospitality, timber and horticulture.

Current Position:

Owner/operator “The Persimmon Place”. A specialist Orchard and hospitality venue that reflects the changing business models required within the Sydney basin.

Orchard Manager for Waddell’s Orchard, Norquay Farm and Cranston’s Orchard.

Memberships:

Active Executive member of the Hornsby Rural Areas Association.

Branch President of the NSW Farmers Cumberland Hills Horticultural Branch.

Secretary to NSW Farmers Cumberland District Council Horticultural Division.

Member of the Executive committee for Persimmons Australia Inc.

Branch President Terry Hills Branch of NSW Liberal Party.

Voluntary Work:

Actively participate in the fund raising and building activities of the Australian Chapter of “Habitat for Humanity” in their quest to provide suitable housing to disadvantaged communities within South East Asia.

Annual team member for Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal – Mackellar Electorate.

Interests:

Actively involved in the planning and management initiatives required to ensure suitable co-existence between Agri-business and urban development within the Sydney basin.

Sydney’s fringe is home to many Agricultural Enterprises. However, population expansion and urban development threaten the co-existence of such enterprises. Re-location strategies, appropriate zoning provisions etc. are among the many planning instruments requiring review and implementation.

Interested in promoting the role of the LLS in terms of improved bio-security initiatives, improved policing of neglected orchards etc. and overall strengthening the LLS role as a “go to” service for a range of land and livestock management issues.

Interested in dealing with all tiers of government in the pursuit of “best practise” initiatives aimed at improving performance and viability of activities based on Sydney’s Rural Lands. Such as Value-adding, networking and export.

Interested in representing the community and developing a keen focus on solutions applicable to the future of the region.

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COLLINS, Matthew John

Current Occupation: Company Director

Qualifications: Bachelor of Economics, Sydney University

Intentions for seeking re-election

- There is an important need at Greater Sydney to understand there are major BioSecurity risks associated with the Sydney Ports and Airport being the gateway to New South Wales. As an elected member my interest is to ensure lobbying for adequate funding is provided by Government to LLS Greater Sydney for the protection of the Primary Industries in our country
- Significant large sums of taxpayer funds are being spent on Catchment Management and Natural Resource Management Projects within the Greater Sydney Area. My involvement is to guide GS being involved with projects to ensure value for money and tangible outcomes continue to be measured and reported with direct evidence from these projects
- The Department of Primary Industries has an enormous knowledge of Agricultural matters within the ranks of senior management. The process of ensuring that this is preserved and transitioned needs the guidance and experience from board members understanding the challenges agriculture will be facing in Greater Sydney in the future. My brief is LLS must continue to be proactive in ensuring frontline services are preserved and retained for the benefit of future farming generations
- GS today has culture to charge “fee for service” revenue in areas where we are industry leaders and offer a value management outcome for investors and clients to reduce dependence in the longer term on Government funding. Significant progress has been achieved to date and this must be continued

As a Company Director I have the necessary qualifications, skills and experience to accept financial and committee management responsibilities and obligations that are associated with a Directorship role

Experience that is relevant to the role

Greater Sydney Local Land Services – Elected Board Member 2014-2017

Greater Sydney Local Lands Services – Member of Productivity and Commercial Performance Committee

Greater Sydney Local Lands Services – Member of Audit and Corporate Governance Committee

Community Involvement

Camden Show Society

Committee member since 1994

President 2004-2007

Current role implementing governance and financial sustainability

Upper Nepean Water Users Association 2000 to 2010

Water Sharing Plan negotiations with Government and Industry to achieve a strategic outcome

Stakeholder Committee for the Office of the Hawkesbury-Nepean – 2010 to 2012

Irrigation representative engaging communities on river management issues

Primary Industries Business Experience

Collins Group of Companies

Since 1977 I have been a director of the Companies that are involved in the Construction and Landscaping Supplies Industry specialising in natural turf surfaces

Charolais Society of Australia Limited

In 2016 I became a Director and Honorary Treasurer The role involves financial governance and risk mitigation strategies for the business to protect against unforeseen events.

Kenmere Charolais Stud

I am co-principal of a Charolais Stud at Cobbitty where pure bred Charolais cattle are produced for the purpose of breeding commercial Charolais bulls for crossbreeding and replacement cows for our breeding herd.

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REARDON, Jill

In support of my candidature I provide the following information:

I am a Retired Conservation and Land Manager having 22 years field experience working in the Hills, Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains areas.

I served 21 years as a Councillor in Local Govt, with three terms on The Hills Shire Council and two terms on Hawkesbury City Council. Member of the Floodplain Committee on both Councils.

Vice-Chairman of the National Parks Advisory Committee for Sydney North Region for 13 years, working on Plans of Management for National Parks and Nature Reserves.

In the spirit of community participation, I co-ordinated the Clean Up Australia Campaign in the Hills District for 13 years!

My husband and I have a hobby farm at Grose Vale where we breed Poll Hereford cattle.

Our family have been on the land for 150 years as bank managers and farmers in the Central West Region.

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