

NSW Local Land Services Hunter Region

2017 Local Board Member Election (3 to be Elected)

Candidate List and Profile Statements

CAMPBELL, Ron	2
BROWN, Art	3
WILLIS, Deborah	5
LEWER, Daniel	7

CAMPBELL, Ron

My name is Ron Campbell and I am an elected director of the Hunter Local Lands Service. I am standing again for a second term as elected director.

I am seeking your number one vote.

I am a serving councillor on the Upper Hunter Shire council, holding the position of chairman of the infrastructure services and I represent the council on the Weeds County Council of the three shires in the upper hunter.

I have been heavily involved in the formation of the wild dog trapping program in the Upper Hunter to employ a wild dog controller. This program in conjunction with the Hunter Valley Combined Wild Dog Association and LLS has yielded over 40 dogs caught. I am a member of the NSW farmers association.

As a landholder and primary producer of a mixed Farming and Grazing property at Merriwa I have a very keen interest in continuing to protect our vital agricultural livestock industries and bio security. Our farm is a mixed enterprise of livestock, namely a commercial herd of Angus cattle, a registered Angus stud, merino, and prime lamb production. Our farming operation include the growing of Canola, Wheat, Barley, oats and lucerne.

I believe that operating and expanding this enterprise has given me experience in the various aspects of agriculture and valuable knowledge in what is required to implement the operation of the Hunter Local Land Services.

My two married sons returned to the farm after obtaining their degrees in agricultural science.

In 1969 I completed the TAFE course in sheep and wool gaining my professional Wool classing certificate. I have participated in the various upgrades to the certificate to maintain my standard of expertise. In the year 2000 I completed a module in Animal nutrition and feed lotting by distance education at the New England University.

During my LHPA directorship I completed a training course on corporate Governance, Finance, and Risk management. Conducted by AIDC. I have completed updates of these courses as a councillor of the upper hunter shire council.

The Local Lands Services, encompassing the various aspects of agriculture needs to succeed to ensure our Local and Overseas markets are protected. A very necessary function of the LLS is maintaining our Bio Security standards to ensure our, Clean, Green Status in our world markets. The ability to isolate and contain any breakdown in these standards will be critical in maintaining these export markets. Suitable trained staff need to be employed, with good communication skills between the various levels of the LLS and landholders.

I believe that I have a good understanding of the role and responsibility required locally, and for the bio security standards that need to be maintained for agriculture.

I respectfully ask for your Number 1 vote.

[Back to Candidate List](#)

BROWN, Art

My name is Art Brown. I am married with 3 children and 2 grandchildren and I am a beef cattle producer in the Crawford River catchment of Myall Lakes. I am actively involved in the community and I am passionate about the land. I seek your vote for election to the Hunter, Local Land Services Board, so I can continue to represent and promote the interests of the Hunter region.

My experience working as a beef cattle producer and my involvement in land management projects that impact farmers across the region (wild dogs, land erosion etc) put me in a good position to understand the challenges that landholders in this region face. I am of the view that these skills; my previous business experience and community involvement, will put me in a good position to serve on the LLS Board.

I have highlighted below key aspects of my expertise, knowledge and skills relevant to the LLS Board role:

Leadership, strategic planning and management:

- 43 year career as a business builder, risk manager and change management agent with Australia's largest financial institution, including 9 years of international appointments. Senior roles included overseeing the integrity of financial reporting; the effectiveness of risk management, compliance systems, internal and external audit functions
- MBA (Project Management) useful in the translation of goals and strategies into measureable actions

Community participation, regional service delivery and working with industry, government and other partners:

- Current Chair, Wild Dog Control Group for Bulahdelah and Districts: working with four Government agencies and landholders to establish a more effective on-ground model for wild dog control
- Current committee member, Bulahdelah Show Society Inc. and Beef Cattle Steward
- Current member – NSW Farmers, MLA and the National Party
- Former member, Great Lakes Catchment Management Group: worked closely with CMA
- Former Trustee, Bulahdelah War Memorial Reserve Trust: coordinated five commemorative Anzac exhibitions; author of 'Bulahdelah Boys – Family and Mates in the Great War'; worked closely with Crown Lands (Taree)
- Former volunteer, Meals on Wheels
- Worked extensively with local and international regulators and Central banks in previous employment, including former Chair of Foreign Banks and Securities Houses Association, London.

Primary industries or providing services to support this sector:

- Established a Limousin beef stud breeding enterprise in 2002 – produces 4/5 commercial bulls per year – Royal Sydney, Brisbane and regional shows with broad ribbon success, winning the prestigious Limousin breed, Sires Progeny, Sydney 2011

Contemporary biosecurity programs in animal and plant health, pest and weed management:

- Adopted best practice animal husbandry, pasture and weed management principles
- Trapped 7 wild dogs and 3 foxes since attending AWI sponsored Ellerston/Glenrock trapping course in July 2016

Emergency management especially and natural disaster emergencies:

- April, 2015 Superstorm – first-hand knowledge of bio-security breaches in community
- Operational risk responsibilities in former employment included disaster recovery planning
- Cyclone Tracy 1974 – implemented strategies to restore branch operations and manage staff when there was no water, no electricity and inadequate staff housing

[Back to Candidate List](#)

WILLIS, Deborah

Current position:

Owner Manager 600 ac beef and timber property, previously dairy operation.

Qualifications include:

Diploma Agriculture Tocal Ag College
Certificate in Beef Cattle Management
Certified Timber Production Cert 2 in Sawmilling and Processing
Sustainable Private Native Forestry 9147 TAFE
Institute of Group Leaders – Trained Group Leader
Permaculture Design PRI
Cert in Sustainable Farming Management NTS Landcare
Manning Landcare Holistic Farm Management Bruce Ward
Prograze, Waterwise Irrigation, DIDCO Focus Farm
Women in Dairying Leadership DIDCO
NZ Farm Study Dairy ADF

I have been self-employed for 35 years operating both dairy and beef vealer production enterprises on my property at Lansdowne near Taree on the Mid North Coast. In addition, in the last 10 years, I have been operating my own saw mill and sustainably harvesting timber from my property for milling, logs and poles.

My involvement in Industry and Community organisations is extensive.

Currently 2017

Cattle Committee NSW Farmers
NSW Farmers Wingham Branch Sec
Cattle Council of Australia Communication Committee
Hunter LLS Regional Weeds Committee
Hunter LLS Community Consultation Group
Tropical Soda Apple Taskforce
Board Member NSW Institute of Group Leaders 19 yrs

Previous 2016

Cattle Committee NSW Farmers
NSW Farmers Executive Council 12 yrs
Mid North Coast Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee 12 yrs

Past

Chair Dairy Farmers Association Lansdowne Branch

I believe LLS needs to deliver extension services to all farmers in the region regardless of farming experience. In addition, to ensure that the information delivered has been thoroughly researched and delivered by DPI as well as consultants. Delivery would be across all areas in the region, and treated equally.

I also believe that eligibility for grants covers economic benefits to farmers as well as environmentally sustainable outcomes which I will push for if elected.

I would also study and modify where required, the financial planning model, to ensure that LLS is sustainably financial to ensure farmers benefit from funding sources by better delivery of extension services as well as required LLS personal and LLS staff.

My involvement with many organisations gives me the broader knowledge and understanding of how valuable delivery to rate payers is vital, to ensure agriculture is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable to all concerned, the triple bottom line.

That the role of Community Consultation Committees is improved by regular meetings, and that follow up from these meetings is used in planning and extension work. That the committees take a more fundamental role in determining the needs for farmers, rather than a sounding board for plans already in concrete.

Apart from these five issues I feel there is much improvement to be made following on from the three initial years of teething and experimentation which was to be expected.

Hope you will consider my nomination and trust this will be helpful for your assessment.

[Back to Candidate List](#)

LEWER, Daniel

Qualifications:

- Bach. of Environmental Science – University of Newcastle
- Masters in Wildlife Health and Population – University of Sydney
- Cert III in Conservation and Land Management – NSW TAFE
- Cert in Vertebrate Pest Management – NSW DPI
- Certified Environmental Practitioner – www.cenvp.org
- Basic/Advanced/Design and Construction River Course conducted by DLWC/DIPNR
- RiverStyles Course - Macquarie University, Sydney
- “Habitat Restoration” and “Catchment and Land Management” LaTrobe University, Victoria
- Chemical Use (AQF4)

Employment Experience:

1999-2003

- Department of Land and Water Conservation (DLWC), Muswellbrook
- Riparian Restoration Officer - developing and implementing riparian rehabilitation works in the Hunter Valley

2003 - Present

- Founder and Managing Director of Hunter Land Management Pty Ltd
- Delivery of on ground land management projects using internal staff and contractors throughout NSW and Australia

Memberships/Positions Held:

- President of Maitland Rugby Club 2012 - Present and Committee Member for 10+ years
- Upper Hunter Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee and Hunter River Weeds Discussion Group
- Upper Hunter Reference Group for the Vegetation Management Committee for the Hunter Valley
- Maitland City Council Greening Plan Committee

Expertise, knowledge or skills:

For your consideration, I have outlined my land management qualifications, experience and ongoing interest relevant to this position.

This includes my strong and developing understanding of corporate governance through both my 16 years business experience with HLM Pty Ltd (starting a business though to a \$4m p/a turnover, meeting legislation and obligations, human resources, accounting etc.) and my volunteer experience (open transparent governance meeting a wide range of community expectations) as President – Maitland Rugby Club with over 500 members. This is complimented with my commitment to ethical standards through my appointment as one of the first CEnvP (Certified Environmental Practitioner – www.cenvp.org.au) in Australia and ongoing assistance in this program and my polished communication and negotiation skills which will be required in this role. These have been built over many years in leading 50+ staff and 500 community members through conference presentations, course delivering, staff meetings etc.

The key areas of expertise and experience which I can bring to this position will focus on providing services to primary industries, pest and weed management, natural resources management and biodiversity conservation. My experience in extension services with the DLWC/HCMT as a Rivercare Planner polished my negotiation skills with a wide range of primary industry land users within the Hunter Valley region from Wyong to Scone. These land users groups including beef cattle, aquaculture, viticulture, dairy farming, equine industry, hobby farming, orchards and mining. I was successful in pulling all these landholders together for a common goal of repairing restoration. I have built on my qualifications in Environmental Science from Newcastle University with practical qualifications and experience in local pest and weed management including a CERT III in CALM from NSW TAFE and Vertebrate Pest Control Course from the NSW DPI. I look forward to working with the LLS and Hunter Landholders to improve the Hunter Valley region.

[Back to Candidate List](#)