

Liberal North Shore MP elect Felicity Wilson hits out at Labor leader Luke Foley

Mosman Daily April 12, 2017

Andrea McCullagh



Felicity Wilson voting at Neutral Bay Public School. Picture: Virginia Young

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NORTH SHORE MP elect Felicity Wilson has come out fighting against Opposition Leader Luke Foley.

Ms Wilson said she had made an honest mistake in her residential history after stating she had lived in the area for 10 years.

Mr Foley weighed into the debate when he told the ABC that Ms Wilson had as “much connection with the seat of North Shore as I do and I’m the member for Auburn”.

But she was not impressed with his comment.

“I voted for myself on Saturday,” she said. “Luke Foley couldn’t vote for himself when he was parachuted into Auburn at the last election and he can’t vote for himself now because he still doesn’t live in his electorate.

“He should maybe look at his glass house before he keeps casting stones.”



NSW Labor leader Luke Foley. Picture: Sue Graham

Labor didn’t run a candidate in the by-election.

Ms Wilson’s election hadn’t been formally declared before deadline as counting was continuing but the party is confident it is holding the seat.

The first items on her agenda are investments in local schools and transport projects including the Beaches Link tunnel bypassing Mosman.

“I’m really focused on spending the next two years before the next election getting the community to get know who I am and building that relationship and trust with them,” she said.

MERGER ANGER

Anger over forced council amalgamations wasn’t enough to dethrone the Liberal party in North Shore at the weekend.

Independent candidate Carolyn Corrigan ran on a platform opposing the plan to join up Mosman, North Sydney and Willoughby councils.

Her vote was strongest in the Mosman area where she polled closely to the Liberal candidate Felicity Wilson.

But she fell behind in the North Sydney side of the patch.

“Because of the very short campaign it did make it very challenging for me,” Ms Corrigan said.

“If the campaign had been a little bit longer, who knows.”



Carolyn Corrigan ran as an independent in the by-election. Picture: Virginia Young

Ms Corrigan is considering running again in 2019 and believes the swing against the Liberal party has now made the seat marginal.

“A lot of that white-hot anger was about forced council amalgamations,” she said.

Ms Corrigan is not conceding to Ms Wilson until she sees the final result this week.

The Save Our Councils Coalition said the swing against the Liberal party in the by-election reveals a government that has lost its way.

“Community anger will continue to grow and result in a landslide loss in 2019 for the Berejiklian government, unless it now withdraws its despised and hated forced council amalgamations,” SOCC spokesman Phil Jenkyn said.



Anti-council merger campaigners on election day.

He added that there is a loss of trust and support for the Liberal party.

Ms Corrigan proved to be the strongest opposition candidate on the day gathering about a quarter of the first preferences. She was followed by the Greens' Justin Alick and independent Ian Mutton.

Mr Jenkyn also predicted that the Liberal party would lose the seat in the 2019 state election if there is not substantial progress on the tunnel bypassing Mosman.

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