

Transcript of online focus group held on Thursday 16th March, 2006

(Note: all typos have been retained)

Ian1: M, 51-60, 2070

Helen2: F, 41-50, 2620

37987: F, 41-50, 2575

Ian5: M, 61+, 2650

Tony9: M, 61+, 2069

Susan10: F, 51-60, 2444

Ann11: F, 61+, 2779

robingail: F, 41-50, 2749

Julie13: F, 31-40, 2256

Janine: F, 51-60, ?

>> Thanks. Please introduce yourself to everyone in this room. The Moderators will be along shortly. (Floor Is Open To All Users)

=> **37987** Has Joined The Room

=> **Ian1** Has Joined The Room

Moderator_1:Hi Everyone

Susan10:job criteria..... a large tongue

Ian1:Hello to all

Helen2:hi

Ian5:Two Ians must be better than one!?! *

robingail:hi

37987:Hello everyone

ann11:Hello back

Ian5:and hello from here too *

Susan10:i'm waiting for the other 9 susans

janine:Sooooo what happens? *

37987:how many have been invited to the forum?

Moderator_1:13

Moderator_1:I think we should wait a few more minutes

Ian5:Janine you must learn to wait and not be tired by waiting *

Moderator_1:There's always a few can't make it for different reasons

37987:or have to extract teenagers from their computers

robingail:what is the think/ action choices do?

Ian5:37987 you sound SO mysterious! *

janine:I will be obedient and wait .. I want to know .. for what? *

julie13:there's a tony9 in the foyer...

Ian1:Where is everyone ? I'm in Canberra at present.

=> **Tony9** Has Joined The Room

37987:Im in the southern highlands

Ian5: Wagga for me *

Moderator_2:Hi, and thanks for participating in this online focus group looking at your attitudes about the current NSW State election.

julie13:central coast here

37987:Ian5...wish i was...lol

robngail:Im from penrith... a westie

Susan10:mid north coast nsw

ann11:Blue Mts here

Moderator_2:We have two moderators this evening. Moderator 1 is Graham Young Chief Editor of On Line Opinion and Moderator 2 is Tim Grau from the consulting company Springboard Australia

37987:Hi Guys

Moderator_2:What we are going to do this evening is talk about a number of issues. I want to know what you think. There are no "right" or "wrong" answers, so please don't hesitate to say exactly what you think.

Moderator_2:Sometimes I will want to make sure that I get some feedback from each of you in turn and will ask you to go "around the room". What this means is that you should answer the question in the order of the number after your name. There will be some numbers missing, so you might need to check now to see what numbers are closest to you on the high and the low sides.

Janine:I can manage that! *

Moderator_2:At other times I will ask you to discuss a question "freely". That means that anyone can lead off and anyone answer.

Moderator_2:If at anytime you experience difficulties, you can chat to me by selecting and clicking on my name. Please only do this if you have technical difficulties.

Moderator_2:Any questions? (If no-one mentions anything in the next 30 seconds, I'll assume we're ready to go).

37987:ok then what about my number name

Tony9:Tony9-Sydney

robngail:yes what are the action/think options for?

Susan10:hi ian,my son recently trained at kapooka and we loved wagga ppl were so friendly

:Moderator_1 .oO(They come out marked as thought bubbles)

Moderator_2:OK folks Let's start. Can we start by everyone providing their gender, age and postcode

Moderator_1:Like that for thinks

Ian5:yes it is a good spot *

:* Moderator_1 And like this for acts *

37987:female, 50, 2575

=> **moderator3** Has Joined The Room

Tony9:Male 62 5 2069

Ian5:male, 64 2650 *

Ian1:Male age 55 Rgular postcode 2070

Helen2:f 43 2620

Moderator_1:37987 you were supposed to be Jan4

robngail:female 49 2749

Susan10:female 53 mid north coast nsw

Moderator_1:Looks like the spread sheet formatted you as a date and turned you into a number!

ann11:Female 63, 2779

julie13:female, 32, 22256

37987:Moderator1 can i change it?

janine:Janine female 51 education PUBLIC! *

Moderator_1:Not without logging in again

Moderator_1:I think if you just go as number 4 in the order

37987:i can do that if you want

Moderator_1:Otherwise you'll lose the history of the first part of the conversation.

janine:ASK US A QUESTION!! *

Moderator_2:As you all know, the New South Wales election has been called for 24 March. We'll be discussing your attitudes about the election shortly, but before we do, could I ask each of you to just write down on a piece of paper which party you will vote for? Don't tell us yet.

37987:true, ok, ill be 4

Moderator_2:If you don't really know, just write down who you'd be inclined to support. If you don't have paper handy just think of who that would be and just remember it for later.

Moderator_2:I'd also like you to write down how you would have voted if there had been an election a month ago.

Moderator_2:Again don;t tell us yet.

Moderator_2:"OK. Now just going around the "room" in turn, (Ian 1 first etc) can each of you just tell us all what your general thoughts are about the current state election? Try not to debate anyone's point of view at this stage, just let us know what you think."

=> **Helen2** Has Joined The Room

Ian1:Both parties are bereft of policies -- Labor is less bad than Liberal !

Ian5:I think the election is frighteningly uninspiring and that democracy in our federal state, Australia is at a crossroads. *

=> **moderator_3** Has Joined The Room

Moderator_2:Hi Helen we've jsut started if you just tell us all what your general thoughts are about the current state election? Try not to debate anyone's point of view at this stage, just let us know what you think."

Tony9:In terms of both major parties,it is Hobson's choice

Helen2:the labor candiate in this seat is supporting a new housing development under the flight path and our health services are about to collapse

Susan10:our member is independent so tells us he can influence stuff.i'm not sure but he's hard working and likeable

robngail:to me it seems the same old spin and rhetoric we get every election. Debnam has failed to gel with the public and the ghost of John Brogdan hangover him.

37987:it scares me that we could have a hung parliament, or a major party pandering to the whims of the greens and some dissatisfied mainstream candidates who have turned independent

Helen2:labor is on the nose but the liberal hate women so much that it is hard to understand how anyone could vote for them

Susan10:i think the whole election can be described as bland versus colourless

Helen2:women toleratant vs women hating

janine:I am bored and only really focused on the Federal election. My perception is that they hold the 'big issues' In the country we don't worry about city rail, Sydney water , flight paths etc etc .. *

ann11:I think a hung parliament is no worse a problem than the major parties, both of which are not doing a great job. I don't like labor, and I don't trust Peter Debnam, and I won't vote for my local candidate Koperberg,

julie13:I was looking forward to the election, hoping to see the end of labor pretending to run the state, however, yet again, the libs have failed to produce a viable alternative.. the greens were an option however knowing their preferences are going to labor... ahhh... nsw is a pit

Susan10:living in regional nsw i'd LOVE to have public transport that stuffed up

37987:i dont understand the comment re Liberals hating women.....

<= **moderator_3** Has Left The Room

Tony9:Forget the Greens,their latest ideas on drug legalisation will cost them dearly

Moderator_2:Thanks folks. We are now almost in the last week of the election campaign, what have been the key issues for you over the course of the campaign?

janine:I'm with you Susan 10! *

Ian1:Women are the real power in the Liberal Party organisation.

Ian1:Key Issues: Health, Water, Sustainable Cities

janine:Law and order and the conservative view *

ann11:For me, financial management and the poor job labor has done of infrastructure, health, police, etc. Then there's Debnam

=> **moderator3** Has Joined The Room

Helen2:services - funding for the things that state govt should be providing ie protection against violence, infrastructure and safety (ie NOT law and order)

37987:water, hospitals, drug use, lack of transport, policing, and most especially the workers compensation legislation that panders to insurance companies to the detriment of the victims

Ian5: #1 issue is the right wing control of the libs that arguable led to Brogden's demise; any thought for any other issue for me was forgotten *

Susan10:water health education and a vision for my grandchildren

Helen2:agree that the women hating liberal control is a real turn off

Tony9:The incompetence,if not outright corruption,in the present Government

Ian1:Workers Comp is a non-issue. Minor claims are discouraged, Seriously injured workers are substantially better off !!

ann11:agree with Ian about right wing of libs. I would have voted for Brogden

Ian5:I would have too (voted for Brogden) *

Susan10:debnam says he'll open more hospitable beds. that's laughable he can't do that because there are not the nurses willing to work

robingail:the key issues for me are the appalling underfunding of the health, education and transport systems. Also the fact that my children will never be able to afford to buy a house in Sydney. the rising cost of utilities

janine > Have any of the people in this forum heard the Libs speak?

ann11:it is not the hospital beds lacking, it is the funds to keep them operating

37987:yes i have heard them speak

robingail:agree with you susan i am one of the ex-nurses

Ian1:Yes -- I'm a paid up member of the Liberal Party -- but I don' like what I hear.

robingail:politicians dont speak they recite spin

ann11:robin probably knows about the problems at Nepean, too, and for those further into the country, i don't know that I could live there

Ian5:I cringe as much with Debnam as I did with Carr - they don't sit well for me either of them and I know I should be more interested in policies but the policies are rhetoric (core non core etc in federal speak) *

Moderator_2:Ok. Now what are the key issues you would have liked to see discussed and debated in this campaign?

janine:Public education and its funding *

Helen2:violence against women; transport; infrastructure; planning policies

Ian1:Prevention vs curative health; Sustainable Cities and Populations; Water: Improved Public Transport

Tony9:A committment to something approaching a true democracy

Susan10:environment health and proper funding of public education

Ian5:stop the federal state blame game; stop only servicing marginal seats; act on water; get a real transport system in Sydney ... education, hospitals *

ann11:Forget personalities and discuss options including water, environment, health, safety, transport, tunnels, and to be honest the possibility of limiting development where there are limited facilities and no infrastructure

janine:and education! *

robingail:where they can realistically raise the extra funds to improve the health, transport, education etc facilities

37987:mental health, local govt and infrastructure, health, workers compensation legislation

Moderator_2:Thanks for those comments. Now I'd like to talk about Morris Iemma specifically. Going around the room again in order, can you tell me what you think of Morris Iemma?

ann11:some of the extra funds would come from not using private contractors at inflated prices

Helen2:revolting - a slimy grinner

Tony9:Nice Guy,wrong party

Ian1:Honest, Clean, Hard Working -- but surrounded by Duds and Party Machine Men (and Women)

janine:Nice bloke .. seems 'honest' *

Ian5:Uninspiring but seesm a genuine fellow to me *

37987:i dont think he understands the real world, and feel that the labour party survives thanks to spin doctors

ann11:Nice enough, but wrong choice of ministers

Susan10:bland uninspiring boring

=> **julie13** Has Joined The Room

robingail:I think he has inherited a time bomb from Bob Carr but is trying his best to appear honest and personable .. and like both major parties relies on spin doctors and internal polling.

37987:Morris iemma has never had t work in the real world...

Ian5:Oh robingail I so much agree with you! *

Ian1:He could probably manage a Gym !

Moderator_2:Morris Iemma says “the election on March 24 presents a clear choice between his agenda to improve and expand public services and Peter Debnam’s scheme to sack 20,000 workers from public services..” How do you feel about that?

Ian5:rhetoric and rubbish *

Tony9:A stupid policy

ann11:Doubtful about both claims

Ian1:There are too many Public Servants -- but the real number is probably less than 5000

Susan10:it was interesting that at his campaign launch there was little reference to labor

37987:Time and time again i have heard this incorrect rhetoric and it irritates me that Debnams words have been twisted to present something different from what he has been saying all along

Helen2:the liberals couldn't manage a raffle! they hate public servants on principal but expect them to deliver on their silly little policies

julie13:labor's had 12 years to expand and improve puclib servies - why would they get it right now... and I'd like to hear debnams real policy

ann11:Then Iemma wants the desalination plant which is going to cause a lot of trouble without solving the problem

37987:i do think Iemma is using statements like this as scare tactics

Susan10:both are talking garbage

janine:My experience leads me to belive that there can never be too many public servants .. other {successful} countries have more than NSW as ever had! *

ann11:Agree, Susan

robिंगail:nice rhetoric on morris' part but as his party has had years to to take care of that its the wrong approach. debnam has got to be kidding! My brothers work for sydney water and that have already been losing staff causing increased workloads for those left

Helen2:don't the libs want the votes from the nsw public service?

ann11:not important to them

Susan10:why doesn't any one have some vision for the future?

Ian1:Fat chance. It votes close to 100\$ Labor.

janine:If you want a good infrastrctre you need a public service to deliver *

julie13 .oO(doesn't believe anything said in election advertising)

Ian5:Debnam lost public servants' votes as Latham lost private school votes *

Moderator_2:Morris Iemma also says: “In the 18 months since I became Premier we’ve made progress delivering more reliable public transport, faster treatment in our hospitals and delivering the biggest infrastructure program in NSW history. “We’re heading in the right direction, but I know there’s more work to do.

Moderator_2:“That’s why I am seeking the support of the people of NSW to continue the job I started 18 months ago to deliver the services that families rely on.

37987:i would like to see the media present the true picture of what debnam is saying

Susan10:here's maurice with his young kids on display right left and centre but he shows no forethought for thier future

Moderator_2:What’s your reaction to that?

37987:i think its a load of bull dust

Tony9:Where is the evidence of this big infrastructure program?

Ian5:gave up listening to spin years ago *

Ian1:His statement is factually incorrect -- ie he' lying.

julie13:I've recently started taking the train again after 2 years not using PT and I can guarantee the service is not better and the trains are the same I was on 10 years ago - just grubbier

ann11:Not true - public transport still has problems, the hospitals are worse not better, and the infrastructure choices are poor

37987:the iemma govt allows a number of councils huge rate increases.....to the demise of ratepayers

Helen2:more work! now that's an undersatement - and where is he going to get the money to improve transport and other services?

Ian5:Qld has the money and the water?? *

robingail:well i think what happened yesterday gives lie to that. also the stuff up when the QE2 visited ... etc etc the buses to UWS where my two kids go have been late all week causing lectures to be missed

janine:What transport? Country trains? *

Tony9:Julie- were you on the Sydney Harbour Bridge last night?

julie13:stamp duty, maybe introduce a new land tax, the payroll tax is a good earner - the money should be there

Ian1:The money will come from GST Revenue sharing ??!

Susan10:some family work in health and education and as far as they are concerned it's all stagnant or going backwaqrds at best

julie13:oh no, Wednesday I get to work from home, so missed that fun

Moderator_2:Thanks for those comments. Now, in no particular order, can you tell me in one sentence what you think Morris Iemma stands for.

Helen2:nothing

Ian1:More of the same.

Ian5:The right wing of the Labor Party *

Tony9:Excuses

ann11:Himself as leader

janine:a better option *

robingail:trying to steer a sinking ship and the lesser of two evils

37987:A slide for NSW into the depths of trouble for all due to continuing decline of all basic services

ann11:A sinking ship gives you no choice for a decent vision

Susan10:pardon??

julie13:I think he's weak and slimy and is interested in heading up the state for another 3 or more years so he can land himself a nice cushy consulting job once he screws up the state even more

Moderator_2:Again, going around the room in order, can you tell me what you think of Peter Debnam?

ann11:Oh Julie, I have to agree

Tony9:Ineffective

Ian5:Julie that sounds like all politicians I am afraid *

Ian1:Bland. Flat. Uninspiring.

janine:I cringe *

Helen2:looks good in speedos but wouldn't vote for him if he was the last man on earth
robingail:insincere with a hidden agenda
37987:I like peter Debnam, but I dont think he comes across well enough in the media as opposed to in person..he is a man of integrity
Susan10:as i heard on insiders abc tv sun morning@9am.. iemma is italian for unsworth
ann11:I don't think debnam is a man of integrity, and he is of the extreme right wing
Ian5:Debnam gained the 'poisoned chalice' in a coup that was unholy and led by holy men. *
robingail:i agree
37987:sorry ann11 what makes you think debnam is the extreme right wing?
* **Ian1** Looks Around *
janine:Unsworth used to drive a citroen *
ann11:The trouble with the chalice is that Debnam orchestrated a fair part of gaining it
julie13:slack-jawed, ineffectual, bumbling
Ian5:in his cardigan! *
Moderator_2:O.K. Peter Debnam has said "The biggest risk facing NSW at this election is that nothing changes. ." How do you feel about that?
ann11:What he has done, and what he stands for
Tony9:What's wrong with driving a Citroen?
Ian1:A change would be a change for the worse
Ian5:He is wrong - his party represents a bigger risk in my view *
Susan10:peter debnam always looks as tho there is something smelly under his nose and i wonder about his connections to that clarke bloke
ann11:Too true, but I don't want Debnam's changes
Helen2:that would be the death of this region
37987:I think it would get worse under the present govt
<= **Susan10** Has Left The Room
janine:Well get Debnam to change something! *
=> **Susan10** Has Joined The Room
ann11:Resign and bring Brogden back?
julie13:I agree - I just don't think labor has the capacity to manage the state effectively - unfortunately I'm not sure the libs do either
janine:Goward? *
ann11:I agree, Julie
Ian5:and I agree with Julie too *
Moderator_2:Peter Debnam also says: 'Our economy is on the brink of recession, our budget is in deficit, our housing sector in crisis and we have a water crisis brought about by twelve years of Labor failing to plan and act...
Moderator_2:Labor are paralysed by their own scandals and totally distracted from fixing the many problems they created. After 12 years of seeing our state fall behind, NSW needs to make a change. Labor has had long enough.
robingail:he is too much of a risk... with his religious right connections.
Moderator_2:How do you feel about that?
Tony9:I think the Libs will have to keep going through a series of leaders until they find their own Kevin Rudd
Ian1:His statement is 90\$ true. Unfortunately, he's not part of the solution.

Helen2:what scandles - who cares about polies lives - give us some good policies to debate!

janine:Tell us all about the Liberal scandals! *

Ian1:My lips are sealed !

37987:Sorry , but i have to agree with peter debnam once again.

Ian5:NSW has been starved by the Feds in my view ... we are paying the price of the federation and the whippersnippers QLD & WA are creaming the cash and allowing us, who supported them for many many years to wither. *

ann11:Yes, Tony, and I think the points

ann11:Debanm makes are valid, but he's not going to solve them

robिंगail:there are no guarentees he can do any better

37987:there are no guarantees that iemma wont do worse

janine:I'm with Ian 5 on that one *

julie13:i agree with debnam and believe we need a government change to start righting things

Moderator_2:Right. Now, in no particular order can you tell me in one sentence what Peter Debnam stands for?

Janine:Julie That

Helen2:nothing

Ian1:Nothing obvious.

ann11:Religious right

robिंगail:i garee ian something has to be done about the grants commision but that wont happen while Howard is in power

Susan10:zilch

Tony9:Be good if we knew

Ian5:Pumped up pomposity *

janine:Something painful *

37987:Integrity, stability, sensibility and decency.

robिंगail:conservative

Susan10:rather toffy snobby type

Moderator_2:Both the Government and the Opposition have released major policies targeting improvements in health. How do you feel about the health system? Let's go around the room in reverse order this time.

julie13: peter debnam stands for...um... errr... not being part of the labor party

ann11:I don't know how Qld manage, but we should really be doing better - the chaos in the health system is unbelievable

Tony9:IT's good by international comparison but there are gaps.

julie13:we have a pretty decent public health system, however I'm all for health being a federal responsibility

janine:Maybe as I'm healthy it is OK .. and the young lads who are incaserated do well by the system .. maybe we all ned to comit a crime *

Ian1:Health is grossly underfunded based on OECD rankings. Without more money, we're only tinkering at the edges of the Health system.

Helen2:underfunded,weird priorities, glad I don't rely on it, glad tony abbott has limited influence

Ian5:the failing health system (according to the media) is frightening and yet I don't really know! This is another federal state problem *

Susan10:it will not improve because they are unable to employ the number of nurses required.

ann11:What concerns me are the people on the waiting lists, and I know one who needs an operation and it has been put off a number of times.

robina:health is a mess due to the crossover of state and federal control and funding. Private health insurance is a joke. My husband had an op last year and despite insurance we were out of pocket thousands of dollars

37987:i know a little about the health system, as i work in it, and i really feel that they should be talking to the health workers and find out what is lacking and what is needed. front line staff should be a priority

janine:Personally I've been serviced well ... and in the country *

Ian1:I know a lot about the health system. It's stuffed !

ann11:The staff that treat you are wonderful. Next problem for those on the public system is dentistry - I have to wait 2 years to be assessed, and then another 2 for an appointment.

Moderator_2:Who do you think is best to handle the health system?

Susan10:my partner recently left one part of the health system to work in another health area and found numerous colleagues with whom he had worked were there too

Ian5:The Federal government *

37987:federal govt

Ian1:Some of us may have been serviced well -- but we might not admit it publicly !

robina:we need labour in federally

janine:Abandon private insurance *

Tony9:Federal government

Ian1:The Feds

Helen2:an odd question - this is a very complex issue!

Ian5:Right we have made a decision - the health system is now a Federal responsibility - next question! *

ann11:Not sure, can we have a guarantee of equal spending per person, no matter what state?

Susan10:anyone but the ones so doing at the moment

Moderator_2:Thinking about our water crisis – what is your attitude to it? What do you know about the government and opposition water policies?

Helen2:don't leave women's health in woman-hater abbott's hands!!

Ian1:Equal spending per person is NOT what's needed. It's got to be based on need.

janine:Fill the Darling and you'll have less crime *

ann11:What I meant, Ian was that NSW hospitals be better funded than they have been

Tony9:I do know quite a bit about the water policies but they are a bit long on rhetoric

Ian1:OK

janine:Is that SOOOOOO city Tony? *

ann11:Now water, no i don't understand their policies in great detail, and I don't believe they have been costed accurately and I don't think either of them is going to work all that well

Susan10: i get the jimmy brits watching so much water run down my street to the ocean in an area that has terrific rainfall and should/could be utilised

37987: stealing deep groundwater from areas such as Kangaloon is appalling, and the environmental damage is unknown. This could be a total disaster in the making, all so that sydeny can flush their toilets for a week.....recycling is part of the solution, spending millions of \$\$\$\$ on desal is not

Ian5: I know little about thier policies apart from the desalination that appears to me to be a political posture that may be necessary one day ... like the hospital problems the water matter is frighening *

Helen2: if it would only rain there wouldn't be a problem.... don't give the federal govt power, they will only look after big foreign business

julie13: water - it's been a bit of a beat up, I really can't see how a desalination plant can be 'green' - I think recycling both of waster and stormwater is LONG overdue

robingail: the labour want to build an expensive desalination plant and the libs want us to drink recycled sewerage. they should listen to local councils who want to capture more stormwater Both parties policies are reactionary rather then visionary

Susan10: the desalination plant is ridiculous

Moderator_2: What do you know about the parties' transport policies?

ann11: Unfortunately, business uses a large proportion of the water

37987: reuse of stormwater instead of 95\$ going out to sea is part of the solution

Tony9: There is no shortage of water in Sydney- we simply fail to capture and use it ti o the optimum

julie13: Iemma - bandaid fixes for existing problems. Debnam - nothing formulated as yet (big mistake)

37987: watertanks everywhere is another

Helen2: both parties hate commuters maybe?

Susan10: why don't we just recycle water. by so doing we have to achieve very clean water

Ian1: None of their transport policies are properly costed and fully integrated to provide a 'complete' solution.

ann11: Nothing concrete or practical to help transport

Susan10: transport policies do not affect me as i live in rara land

janine: Is there a policy on rural public transport? *

robingail: nothing only a lot of promises to improve it and i think build another tunnel oh god!! and freeways

Ian5: transport ahs been a mess since the infrastrucure was run down. Citroens were mentioned before - the French Metro is an ideal ! *

robingail: there is no rural policies that i have heard

37987: our rural public transport has been in decline for 12 years

Susan10: however if they would do something about the horrendous behaviour of trucksd ion the pacific highway then i have an opinion

Tony9: The much talked of Sydney North West Railway should have been built before a single house went up in McMansionland

Ian1: Graham, Sorry -- must go. Happy to take part again.

Moderator_1: Thanks Ian

37987: and there should be lobbying to have all highways dual carriageways

<= **Ian1** Has Left The Room

Moderator_2:Which party is best to handle the transport issues you've raised?

ann11:Yes, but the plans for the NS rail are limited and unlikely to be really helpful

37987:liberal

Tony9:Neither of them

janine:A bunch of gypsies in a covered wagon *

julie13:actually, with regards to transport, I'd say the greens- with liberal help (in my ideal world)

ann11:Labor marginally over liberal

Helen2:neither - both are adverse to improving infrastructure

Ian5:There are insufficient funds to sort it out so it is a non question really *

robina:neither have the answer ... there is not enough money in the coffers to improve any of the infrastructure and the private /public partnerships are a disaster

ann11:Let's go mad, get rid of them all, and start over!

Susan10:until someone gets the trucks off the highways.....neither

janine:But yet they have the money to do as such. Priorities? *

Moderator_2:Would you be prepared to pay more tax to fix the infrastructure issues you have raised?

ann11:I agree Susan 10. Rail should be encouraged for freight

37987:no, i pay enough

ann11:I can't answer that, I'm a pensioner

Susan10:of course but i don't reckon that will fix it.

Tony9:The money can be found-are you prepared to pay higher taxes?

Ian5:I don't want my taxes spent on \$6 billion air toys *

Helen2:why should we - the state govt should have the skills to get it from the federal govt

julie13:on more tax - yes... and no. I think there are enough taxes being paid, it's just being mismanaged - if it was being managed ok, then yes, I'll pay more tax

robina:we pay an inordinate amount of tax thanks to the gst we now pay on electricity etc not to mention stamp duty on every insurance policy. We need more money from the federal government

ann11:With the infrastructure comes more high paid administrators - that is one big problem

Ian5:I agree Julie - where does it go! *

Moderator_2:How important is economic management to you? What party would handle the economy the best, and why?

Tony9:We are getting heaps from the GST-so where is it all going?

robina:yes get rid of the consultants

Helen2:ann - glad to see you declare you dislike of public servants!

Susan10:much of a muchness imho

37987:i do believe the coalition would be better financial managers, especially considering labor's track records both state and federally, and how their spending sprees seem to cause so much harm to the community

Tony9:We can do better than Michael Costa

janine:I have heard the rhetoric from both parties and the Libs are uninspiring *

julie13:it's HUGELY important. I think the libs would handle the best (ethical considerations aside), labor has demonstrated they couldn't manage an under 5's football team

robngail:economic management is so important. we need a strong economy to maintain services

ann11:Some of my best friends are public servants, and they work for me specifically. i do NOT dislike them. Just think the fat cats, whether they are public or private company directors take too much money out of the system

Moderator_2:Labor has made much of Peter Debnam's plans to decrease the size of the public service and to hand New South Wales industrial relations over to the Federal Government. Are these issues for you?

Helen2:if you have a decent public service and a culture of listening to them, mismanagment is hard to do.

37987:ann11, you are correct on that one

Tony9:This is a bit of a non-issue

Ian5:Yes - I loathe and detest Work Choices and need think no further really *

janine:HUGE issues! I am passionate about Work choices and my vote will be influenced by such *

ann11:I too think Libs economic mgmt is better, but the industrial realtions and fed libs is a disaster.

Susan10:i'm not keen on federal control

37987:yes, but i do believe that 'frontline workers are ok. i also do believe that what is already in place wont be changed. The Labor govt already requests its public service employees to sign contracts

Moderator_2:Is the Federal Government an issue for you in this election and will it influence your vote?

robngail:Debnams vow to co-operate with the IR laws is his worst declaration. it will get the business vote but not the workers. my kids work part time to get thru uni and have to take low pay to survive.

37987:not in the state election.

Susan10:no it's not

janine:Of course! *

julie13:no and no

ann11:I worry about the work choices, soo to that extent the Fed gov is an issue, and is partly influencing my vote, but not entirely.

Tony9:State matters are State matters

robngail:no thats a seperate issue

Helen2:no - the women hating NSW libs are the key factor

Moderator_2:Now, irrespective of who you actually intend to vote for, I want you to think about the possibility of casting a vote for Morris Iemma and Labor. If you were thinking about voting for Morris Iemma, what would make you hesitate most strongly?

robngail:they like john howards pet ... pru goward

Ian5:Yes the Feds are an issue and their current mud slinging covers Debnam's face - he must be thanking them *

37987:geez, where on earth do you get the 'women hating' tag from? i find it offensive

janine:The feds control the bigger agenda and I'll vote accordingly *

ann11:I hate to say this, but to get decent political leaders, may be we need to pay them more, commensurate with what they could get in the private sphere

Tony9:The Consorting Act

Susan10:only if debnam introduced work choices type legislation

37987:another 4 years of this crap

ann11:Heistate about Iemma, his ministers, his policies and lack of planning ability

janine:Green issues *

Ian5:The Labpor Party backroom right wing lads and the endemic corruption that emanates from that source and the link with the unions *

37987:and the spin doctoring pretence of caring

robingail:the economy

Helen2:Morris Iemma is a smirking creep. but the libs don't want women to have the right to breath.

Moderator_2:O.K., now let's look at it from the other direction. Irrespective of who you intend to vote for, if you were thinking about voting for Peter Debnam, what would make you hesitate most strongly?

37987:Helen 2 can you please tell the forum why you are being so offensive....

robingail:Helen they crucified Chika

37987:some of his candidates

robingail:religious right conservative... IR laws

janine:a weak spine *

Tony9:I would not be influenced by a very temporary leader

Susan10:living outside sydney he's not buggerising us around

ann11:His actions towards Brogden, his religious right wing views and his adoption of work choice policies

Ian5:the link to the loonie right wingers and their narrowness; the corruption that attaches to business links; the Brogden scapegoating *

Moderator_2:The Liberal Party has said it can't win this election. It believes you should vote for it to send Labor a message. What is your reaction to that?

janine:Ian5 has it in one! *

julie13:religious views and lack of preparation for the election - they've known an electionw as coming, I want a leader of the opposition I'm thinking of voting for to have the intelligence to formulate some kind of attack based on policy reform.

Susan10:stuck up prig and david clark's undercover activities

ann11:That wouldn't send labor the right message and we could get caught. I'd rather vote independent

julie13:I think people are going to be voting green to send a message, not libs - which, with preferences will mean labor gets in again

Ian5:an attempt to do what the Vics did to Kennett *

robingail:not way in hell ... a pox on both their houses

37987:Labor needs a shake up and to lose its grip on the state

Tony9:Nice guys come last. We need someone a bit mean who will get on with it.

Susan10:haha rotate

Helen2:the message would be via an independent/green party

ann11:I agree labor needs a shake up, but I don't think I could vote green

janine:I'm not into measge sending. Voters need balls! sorry helen *

Moderator_2:OK we're almost done now. I just want to remind you of the vote you put down at the start. Can you each tell us now what you wrote down at the start?

37987:liberal

Moderator_2:First who you said you would vote for a month ago.

robingail:we can decide the preferences labor can only put it on their ticket we get to tick the boxes

Ian5:Labour *

Tony9:Liberal

Susan10:my local memeber is independent abnd is realy lovely.

Moderator_2:Then, who you would vote for if the election was held this Saturday. If that has changed in the past month why?

37987:liberal

janine:labor *

Ian5:Labor *

robingail:green

Tony9:Independent.

ann11:A month ago, independent, now the same. Final preferences, I'm having problems deciding

Susan10:independent

julie13:greens - liberal changed because green preferences going to labor

Moderator_2:Is it likely you will change your voting intention between now and March 24?

37987:no

Tony9:No

Ian5:No *

ann11:No way

robingail:labour

janine:No *

Helen2:no idea - I have only had voting materal from labor and the nationals so far

Susan10:no

robingail:no

julie13:probably I'm still investigating policies

Susan10:that's an intereswting point

robingail:what policies

Moderator_2:Thanks everyone. That's it for tonight. Be sure to check back at www.ozelections.com for updates on our research. Thanks again. Happy voting!

julie13:robingail - surely there's at least one out there??