

## LOCAL MP SHARES VISION WITH STUDENTS

By Rachel Loveday

Cunningham MP Sharon Bird encouraged students to become well-informed of the current election and the nation's future at the University of Wollongong yesterday.

"If you have a look at all of the major parties websites, at the speeches and policy announcements, you will find an exciting debate about the future of this nation," she said.

"I encourage you to get excited and look beyond those who want to keep you, perhaps in a simple world and to explore what the realities (of the nation) are for all the parties."

Ms Bird spoke alongside candidates for the Cunningham seat which included; Phillip Clifford of the Liberal Party, Jess Moore for the Socialist Alliance, George Takacs for the Greens and John Flanagan for the Non-Custodial Parents Party.

Ms Bird also spoke alongside her work colleague; Stephen Jones, the ALP candidate for the seat of Throsby, along with the other Throsby candidates for the aforementioned parties.

Ms Bird spoke briefly of her personal life before speaking passionately about her policies and key issues of her campaign which included the National Broadband Network (NBN) and creating job opportunities and re-submitting the Student Services Support Bill into parliament after it was opposed by the Senate in 2009.

"It is important to acknowledge that a part of our commitment to universities is to require them do better in its enrolling and support people from a number of backgrounds," she said.

After a strong discussion from all the candidates, Ms Bird shared her thoughts on how the election might turn out.

"I think it will be a really close election and it usually is after there is a change in government, quite often, the first election after that is very tight, I think we've got to really work on getting our message out there in those ten days."