

Senator Kerry Nettle

Biography

Kerry Nettle was born in 1973 and grew up in Marsfield in the north of Sydney.

Kerry first became involved in direct action campaigning as part of the protests to stop the M2 private tollway from being built in her local area, and then through student politics in her UNSW days.

As Environment Officer at UNSW Student Guild, she was involved in fighting to protect the light-rail corridor through the Eastern Suburbs, and later the campaign against the Eastern Distributor, another private tollway cutting through Sydney communities and parklands.

Kerry completed her Environmental Science degree with first class honours in Palaeontology.

Kerry's transport activism continued as a co-ordinator of a statewide conference on public transport issues. After the conference, Kerry was involved in Reclaim The Streets activities and then joined the Jabiluka Uranium Mine Blockade where she acted as a media spokesperson for the blockade for the four months she spent there.

Kerry joined The Greens in 1998 and was part of the campaign team for the successful election of Greens MLC Lee Rhiannon. This was the first year she began co-ordinating The Greens Mardi Gras Parade entry.

Following Lee's election, Kerry began work as a youth worker at Granville Multicultural Community Centre where she worked with the local Tongan and Lebanese communities.

In May 2000, Kerry left her job as a youth worker and headed to East Timor as a volunteer with the Asia Pacific Support Collective. Kerry taught English and computer skills to East Timorese women for two months until contracting malaria. After returning to Australia, Kerry was preselected as the Greens NSW lead senate candidate.

Kerry has also worked with trade unions and community groups on many campaigns such as those opposing corporate globalisation focussed around the S11 protests at the World Economic Forum in Melbourne in September 2000.

Kerry became the first Greens Senator for NSW at the November 2001 elections.

Since taking her seat in August 2001, Kerry has been furiously busy articulating The Greens vision, focusing particularly on opposition to the looming war in Iraq, the tragedy of broad scale land clearing and the anti-democratic actions of the WTO.

Kerry has already made a significant contribution to the work of the Senate environment committee during its recent Uranium inquiry, and on the Government's attempts to introduce the draconian ASIO amendment bill.

The War, Higher Education and Land clearing loom large as issues of key concern in the coming months for Senator Nettle and her staff.

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