

# SYDNEY NEWS



CLOVER MOORE's Community Newsletter

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STATE MEMBER FOR SYDNEY

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## thank you for your support

***It is an honour to again represent Australia's most vibrant and diverse state electorate, now called Sydney.***

*I reaffirm the commitments I made to you during the campaign to work with the Sydney community to make our area a better and more sustainable place to live. I will continue to work for more open and accountable government, and against inequality and disadvantage.*

***The next four years are challenging and critical.*** We must establish and implement effective strategies for resource and energy sustainability and to combat climate change. We must ensure planning meets the needs of an increasing inner city population, protects amenity, and provides needed infrastructure, including public transport. And we have to restore eroded rights to be involved in decisions about our urban environment.

***The Sydney election result supports synergy between State and Local Government for more productive outcomes.***

*Thank you to the Sydney community for your ongoing support. For details of the vote, visit [www.clovermoore.com/main/?id=966](http://www.clovermoore.com/main/?id=966)*

*Clover Moore.*



## Parliament elects an Independent speaker

I look forward to greater impartiality and improved behaviour in the House with the bipartisan appointment of my Independent colleague Richard Torbay as Speaker. Richard has vowed to encourage "robust and issue-based" debate, and require Ministers to actually answer questions.

## NEW email address

Following the electorate name change from Bligh to Sydney, my electorate email address is now [sydney@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sydney@parliament.nsw.gov.au). For latest information updates visit: [www.clovermoore.com](http://www.clovermoore.com)



# FROM PARLIAMENT

**Parliament resumed in May with Labor comfortably returned to Government with 52 seats in the Legislative Assembly. The Liberal/National Coalition holds 35 seats, with six seats held by Independents.**

In the Legislative Council, Labor holds 19 seats and the Liberal/National Coalition 15. The Cross Benches are made up of four Greens, two Christian Democrats and two Shooters Party. With a Labor President, the Government will need three Cross Benchers to pass legislation without Opposition support.

*It's a setback for open and progressive democracy that the only Australian Democrat in the NSW Parliament, Arthur Chesterfield Evans, narrowly failed to be returned to the Legislative Council. We most recently worked together on laws requiring public exposure of government contracts.*



*Clover promoting sustainable transport in NYC*

## Greenhouse gas emissions

**Climate change experts say that 30 per cent reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 are needed to prevent serious global warming, but the NSW Government commitment is virtually to maintain current levels to 2025. I have asked the Premier to review this decision and to legislate for a meaningful target.**

*I joined Mayors from 40 of the world's largest cities in New York to discuss cooperation to address global warming. All cities committed to tackle global warming and pursue major projects to reduce greenhouse gases.*

## saving water

**In Parliament I asked the Government to introduce water saving initiatives like large-scale recycling, grey water reuse, permanent low-level restrictions and repairing old leaking pipes.** A recent report showed that if the Government funds rainwater tanks in five per cent of houses each year, the desalination plant could be deferred beyond 2026.

*There are welcome new rebates for water tanks in the budget, but a structured water tank installation program is needed.*



*Clover's water tank installed four years ago*

## Stem Cell Bill

**Members of Parliament cast conscience votes on the *Human Cloning and Other Prohibited Practices Bill* to allow stem cell research and bring NSW in line with Commonwealth legislation.**

The Bill will allow strictly regulated human embryo research for the treatment of human diseases and infertility and debilitating conditions like Parkinson's Disease, spinal cord injury and diabetes. I was surprised by the controversy because the Bill bans contentious practices such as egg and sperm embryo creation for research, with tough penalties of up to 15 years imprisonment.

*I supported the Bill, which provides hope to alleviate human suffering.*



## Billboard approvals

**The Minister for Planning is proposing to take consent authority from Councils for advertising in major traffic corridors in their Local Government Areas.**

Current legislation prohibits advertising on all freeways and tollways, except the Eastern Distributor, M2, M4, M5 and the Sydney Harbour Tunnel, but council approval is still required. The proposed legislation allows advertising on all freeways and tollways and makes the Minister for Planning the Consent Authority. Relevant Councils will be informed of DAs, but grounds for objection are limited.

*My submission opposed this proposal as it takes decisions away from local communities, could blight our beautiful city, and advertisements could distract motorists.*



## Harbour foreshores threat

The State Government plans to dump controls on harbour waterfront development that limit commercialisation, encourage public access, promote water quality and marine life, reduce clutter and parking and traffic congestion, and protect water views.

*My submission objected to the watering down of protective harbour foreshore controls, and asked the Government to audit all public foreshore assets and establish a comprehensive plan to encourage public access and recreation.*



## Parkland restaurant

The Centennial Park restaurant is being enlarged, maintaining current heights but increasing floor space and relocating the adjacent playground. The Trust promises new grass areas to compensate for additional built-over parkland.

*Local residents and park users were not adequately consulted, and there is concern that the enlarged facility could attract non-park and commercial users, generating increased activity, particularly traffic and parking, and impacting on park amenity.*

## Caritas redevelopment approved

**The Minister for Planning has approved revised plans for the redevelopment of the Caritas mental health site bound by Forbes, Burton and Bourke Streets in Darlinghurst.**

Redevelopment revenue will partly fund a much-needed new mental health facility replacing the O'Brien Building at St Vincent's Hospital, but the cost is overdevelopment of publicly owned land in this sandstone heritage precinct.

Plans have been scaled down, but only partly address community concerns. Building heights for Burton Street are reduced from 12 to seven storeys, and overall floor space ratio (FSR) is reduced from 3.31:1 to 2.75:1. This still substantially exceeds adjacent properties on Burton and Bourke Streets, which have a much lower maximum FSR of 1:1 and height of nine metres.

*The Minister's approval comes under "Major Projects" laws, which I opposed in Parliament.*



## Tighter SCG Stadia concert controls

In response to resident complaints and my representations about excessive noise from the Robbie Williams concert at Aussie Stadium in December, the Minister for the Environment has acted to reduce concert noise.

The Sydney Cricket Ground and Sports Ground Trust will introduce a new Noise Management Plan with measures to protect residents, such as increased financial penalties for event promoters, sound engineers signing agreed noise levels, and the temporary closure of an event in extreme cases.



## NOISE REGULATION review

After several years of promises, the Government released a Regulatory Impact Statement on updating noise controls, including motor vehicles, boats, sound systems, building alarms and power tools. My submission supported better noise protection for inner city residents. For information, telephone 131 555 or visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

# COMMUNITY

## Pushing for more police on our streets

I met with the Minister for Police and the Police Regional Commander to push for action on inner city policing. I asked for immediate action to increase staffing, and for a commitment to ensure long-term stable police numbers.

While the City of Sydney has increased its contribution to addressing crime and safety impacts in areas such as Oxford Street, with additional CCTV and community safety strategies, the State Government needs to ensure adequate police presence on the streets.

I asked for action on gang-related shootings in Kings Cross and Oxford Street, and increasing alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour in The Rocks, City Central, Kings Cross and Surry Hills Police Commands.

*I await the Government's new Liquor Bill as an opportunity to also address these alcohol-related city problems.*



## City Police Stations

I was told that a Development Application for redevelopment of The Rocks Police Station has finally been submitted, and funds are allocated in this year's budget.

*NSW Police is investigating options for a better location of the City Central Police Station and the future of the Pyrmont Police Shopfront.*

*I support a strong local police presence.*



## an independent National Art School

A successful community campaign forced the Government to halt the absorption of the Art School into other institutions. A taskforce will develop options for the School's future, but independence may come at the cost of opening up the former Darlinghurst Gaol site and buildings to commercial activities.

*Photo: Leigh D. Stark*



## New worker for Northcott

After a long delay, the Department of Housing has appointed a new Community Development Worker for the Surry Hills Northcott estate. Along with tenants, I hope that the momentum built up over past years can be recaptured to continue to improve resident safety and amenity, and to bring out the best in the Northcott Community.

*The newly appointed City of Sydney Public Housing Liaison Officer Dominic Grenot will work with the Northcott community as well as other Department of Housing residents to improve safety and amenity.*

## relationship recognition

In the absence of Commonwealth leadership, I have asked the State Attorney General for legislation to allow same sex couples to establish a domestic partnership through a formal declaration before an authorised celebrant or registrar.

Tasmania provides for significant personal relationship registration, based on my *Significant Personal Relationships Bill* drafted ten years ago, and the Victorian Government has committed to similar laws, following Melbourne City Council's introduction of a relationship declaration program based on the City of Sydney model.

*All citizens should enjoy the rights, entitlements, and responsibilities of legally recognised relationships.*



## ACTION for older people

I have written to the Minister for Ageing in support of Aged Care Alliance recommendations to include better health and home support services, specialist mental health services for older people, and an Elder Abuse Hotline. This follows my request last year in Parliament for the Government to invest in programs that enable older people to remain active, healthy and involved members of the community, such as the Older Women's Network.

