



Shaping State liquor laws for public benefit

I am preparing a Private Member's Bill to present to Parliament in the next session to amend the complex and expensive liquor licensing process in NSW to complement the City of Sydney's plan to enliven our city with smaller boutique-style bars.

As a world-class city, Sydney should be able to attract the vibrant, diverse and cultural evening economy of other cities such as Melbourne, Perth, Paris, Florence, San Francisco and Shanghai.

NSW's exorbitant licence fees, with maximum costs up to \$60,000, promote large venues that do not suit all tastes and can be associated with binge-drinking, anti-social behaviour and conflict with local residents. Small operators face additional barriers, because the complex licence process often requires expensive legal assistance.

Victoria reformed its liquor laws last century and Western Australia has similar provisions. In Melbourne, a restaurant may serve alcohol at any time with a licence costing only \$567.50, provided it has sufficient tables and chairs to cater for at least 75 per cent of patrons. This makes it easier for restaurants to trade as bars later in the evening, encouraging intimate, quieter spaces. The Melbourne bar scene has flourished.



In Sydney, restaurants serving alcohol away from tables pay up to \$15,500 for a licence and must serve food at all times.

The City of Sydney's draft Late Night Trading Premises Development Control Plan aims to balance the needs and expectations of residents, patrons and operators of late trading premises. Smaller boutique style bars will be encouraged in some areas, with fewer restrictions; but this requires changes to liquor laws.

My Bill has received wide media and community support, and parliamentary debate will test the influence of the hotel lobby, who like developers, are major donors to the big political parties.

*For information on draft Late Night Trading Premises DCP:
www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council/OnExhibition/DraftLateNightTradingPremises.asp*

Clover Moore



Checking fruit with Charles Phuong at the "Everspring Supermarket"

Supporting small business

I again took part in the "Pollies for Small Business" program run by the State Chamber of Commerce. This year I tried my hand helping in small businesses in Haymarket including Everspring Supermarket, Melewah Jewellers and Zilver Restaurant.





State budget

The Sydney electorate's \$656.2 million budget allocation mostly went to upgrade CBD-based Government offices, IT and vehicles. There is \$67 million this year for the Barrangaroo redevelopment.

The budget allocates funds for roads, buses and studies, but not sustainable transport. The only solution to inner city

congestion is five new "cattle class" buses, where most people have to stand.

No funding for light rail, no integrated transport strategy, no single transport authority and no cutting-edge projects. Another \$69 million is allocated for the ongoing farce of integrated ticketing.

MSIC continues

Parliament voted to extend the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) trial in Kings Cross for four more years.

Over its six years, the Centre managed over 2,100 overdoses that could have resulted in death; made over 6,000 referrals; prevented nearly 200,000 public injections; halved local used

syringe collections; and cut local ambulance drug overdose call-outs by 80 per cent.

The majority of MPs recognise that the MSIC is about tolerance and compassion, keeping drug users alive until they can get off drugs, and independent surveys show that the strong local support for the facility continues to grow.

Urging action on GLOBAL WARMING

In Parliament, I initiated debate to get action on climate change. Violent storms and floods demonstrated the potential human and economic costs of climate change, reinforcing warnings that the cost of inaction far outweighs the cost of action.

A systematic approach with agreed targets must replace the current mishmash of incentives and rebates. I called for "greening" of buildings, which account for about half our emissions, reinstatement of the withdrawn 40 per cent BASIX energy efficiency targets for apartments, and a lift on bans that prevent Councils pursuing stronger targets.

There is no strategy to cut Sydney's rapidly increasing transport emissions, and I again called for a planned, sustainable, integrated transport system with a single State authority to coordinate efficient and sustainable services.

I urged all levels of government to work with community and business for a strong and internationally competitive green economy.

waste NOT



Between 1993 and 2003 Sydney's waste generation increased by 161 per cent and Sydney could produce over eight million tonnes of waste per year by 2020.

In Parliament I urged the Government to enforce extended producer responsibility (EPR), where producers are accountable for the entire "lifecycle" of products, from extraction to disposal. NSW has had this power since 2001 but relies on ineffective voluntary schemes that encourage "built-in obsolescence".

Australia lags behind countries like Sweden, Japan and South Korea, which require companies to accept and recycle electrical products when new ones are sold.

The APEC fencing divide



APEC impacts

Sydney should be able to host international leaders' meetings to develop solutions to international problems, including global warming and poverty.

While the APEC legislation limited extra police powers to the event and security area, I raised concerns about balancing security and civil rights in Parliament and requested an effective APEC communications strategy, sensitive treatment of homeless people, and continuity of services like home nursing. The City provided some free parking for CBD and Millers Point residents who were most affected and had few other options.

I will review the Government report to Parliament required under the APEC Act and I have long supported a Human Rights Act, which could protect civil rights we take for granted.



reducing NOISE

My submission on the proposed updated *Noise Control Regulation 2000* seeks better noise protection for inner city residents.

I advocate better enforcement and tighter controls to reduce noise from vehicles including car sound systems, garbage trucks, buses and marine vessels and plus tighter restrictions on leaf blowers.

My recommendations on residential amplified noise seek to balance protecting quiet enjoyment and allowing apartment residents to live as they choose, and I am pursuing stricter noise controls for low frequency / sub woofer sound in apartments.

Sydney ferries inquiry

Sydney's harbour provides a unique public transport opportunity and my submission to the Special Commission of Inquiry into Sydney Ferries recommends ferry shuttle services to Woolloomooloo, Elizabeth Bay, Rushcutters Bay, Barrangaroo, Pyrmont, and the Fish Markets.

Much of the inner city wraps around the harbour, which should provide an alternative to traffic congestion in narrow inner city streets.

Clearways out of South

The RTA has permanently removed the clearway on South Dowling Street between Flinders and Oxford Street, which is a residential precinct lined with terrace houses and high pedestrian activity. Council will consult to develop a resident parking plan.

Following a community meeting I convened in December 2005, the Minister for Roads set up a six month trial removal to address residents' concerns about pedestrian safety and pollution.

Dowling Street north



Safer residential street

Heritage Act review

After weakening the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to reduce people's right to be involved in shaping their neighbourhoods, the Minister for Planning has chosen a panel to review the *Heritage Act 1977*, covering the listing process, stakeholders' roles, appeal rights, State heritage status criteria, and "efficiency".

I am concerned about the pro-development agenda, and I urge you to make a submission to ensure effective heritage protection is retained.

Information: www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/09_subnav_02.htm#heritageactreview

pushing pedals

In Parliament, I asked the Government to improve cycling infrastructure to reduce private vehicle dependency: bicycles are clean, cheap and healthy.

Research shows that Sydneysiders would cycle more if there were dedicated, connected bike lanes, and better driver awareness.

I lobbied the Commonwealth Government and Opposition for essential investment in sustainable transport in Sydney, including light rail and the City's Bike Plan.



Clover joins the "Bikebus" to work



Funding community services

Community organisations funded by Government grants provide vital community and health services. Part of my role has been to lobby relevant departments when funds are required to cover rising costs such as wage increases.

The Government again provided small increases this year, but the lack of long term planning to assure continuity of services like Meals on Wheels, family support and crisis refuges creates uncertainty.

Meetings with public tenants

I have recently met with public tenants in Surry Hills and Ultimo/Pymont, and will soon hold a meeting in Millers Point.



progressing EDUCATION

The increasing number of babies and children in the inner city highlights the need to upgrade ageing educational facilities. Public schools have too often to battle for limited funds and to get maintenance carried out. I have requested extra staff for small schools like Plunkett Street and Darlinghurst with teaching Principals, plus a review of Ultimo to ensure it can cope with future enrolments. I support school applications for water conservation and energy saving projects.

Poor and inconsistent pre-school funding means NSW parents can pay \$40 a day per child compared to less than \$10 in other states. The Government should provide extra pre-school funds to give 3-5 year-olds a head start and identify special needs and talents early.

A nine per cent increase in TAFE fees was the Government's response to requests for extra funds to TAFE, and Community Language Schools also missed out.

regulating boarding houses

A recent boarding house eviction of 14 residents on a rainy Friday night highlighted the vulnerability of residents without tenancy rights.

I continue to seek tenancy rights for boarding house residents, asking the NSW Government to protect residents from arbitrary

eviction and exploitation. In 1993 I achieved land tax exemptions for boarding house owners, and in 2004 I took the then Minister for Fair Trading to inspect local boarding houses. I produced a Discussion Paper with recommendations, but the Government has not acted.

The City of Sydney Local Government Area has around 400 boarding houses, but there has been a steady decline due to increasing housing prices and running costs, and demolition by neglect.

Supporting our film industry

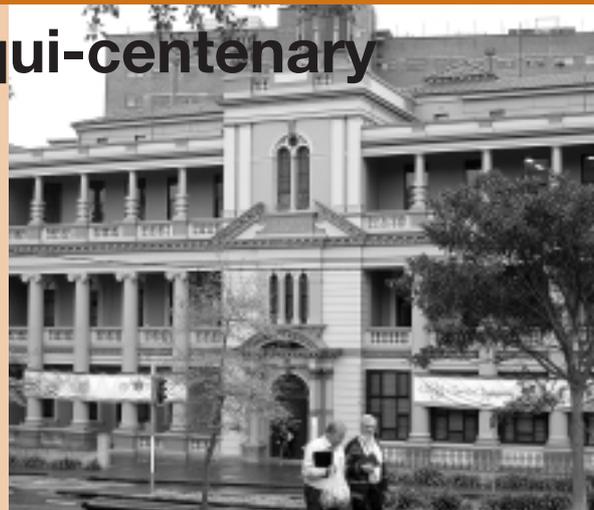
An extra \$1.8m funding over four years for the Sydney Film Festival will help stimulate local film production.

I supported the NSW Film Makers Group, which is concerned that the film industry is moving to Victoria and Queensland where there is more support. *A local film industry is vital to reflect and develop our culture.*

St Vincent's sesqui-centenary

I attended the celebration at St Mary's Cathedral of the 150th anniversary of the foundation of St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst.

St Vincent's provides world standard services, with unique emergency, mental health, drug and alcohol and HIV/AIDS services to cater for inner city needs. The Minister for Planning has approved plans for an eight storey purpose built centre for integrated mental health, drug and alcohol and community services with 27 in-patient beds to replace the Caritas facility.



Sydney in the swim

The new Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre in Ultimo adds an exciting new swimming and gym facility for inner Sydney. The Harry Seidler designed complex includes heated 50m pool, leisure pool with spa, hydrotherapy pool, sauna and steam room, fitness centre, 'spin' cycling, multipurpose room, and café. Visit www.itac.org.au or phone 1800 192 191.

