



Shantytown laws



threaten our homes & heritage

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* enacted by a previous Labor Government, enshrined community rights to be informed and involved in planning and development processes. This balance has been reversed, heritage protection has been gutted, and your built environment and neighbourhood amenity is in the hands of people you didn't elect and who don't live in your area.

The new laws have been made by a Government that receives large donations from developers. I believe ICAC must actively investigate corruption risks.

Changes are confused and complicated, with additional regulations and codes to come that will bypass Parliament, including definitions for complying development.

Cynically wrapped up in this legislation is improved protection for strata title owners and the abolition of Place of Public Entertainment (PoPE) licences, which I strongly support.

Clover Moore

With Fred Nile and the Shooters Party's support, the Government passed planning laws that significantly advantage developers at the expense of individual and community rights, and diminish transparency of the development consent process. The laws have the potential to degrade our environment and residential amenity, and to extend opportunities for corruption.

Planning decisions will be transferred from elected Councillors to unelected panels hired and fired by the Minister for Planning. Open processes where councillors make public decisions and declare conflicts of interests will be replaced by secret decision making by appointed agents not answerable to the community.

Your rights to have a say about certain development that might affect you have been cancelled. Neighbours will be given a courtesy notice, but there will be no opportunity to view plans, comment or effect changes.

The role of private certifiers employed by developers is being expanded to include development consent for yet to be specified types of development. This is despite conflict of interest and building compliance problems involving private building certification, which I opposed when introduced in 1997.

The urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through urban development, which is a significant cause of global warming, has been ignored.

CHEERS to new civilised liquor laws



New licensing laws began on 1 July, in response to a massive community campaign and my *Liquor Amendment (Small Bars and Restaurants) Bill*. My Bill received overwhelming support from residents, business and the tourism industry – with opposition only from vested interests concerned about competition.

I hope that the lower costs and simpler arrangements for liquor licences will promote more civilised smaller venues, including boutique bars and live music venues as alternatives to TV and poker machine dominated beer barns.

The new regime gives Councils and local communities new avenues to control and stop problem venues.

Developer donations untouched by reforms

Contentious developer donations will still dominate major political party funding despite reforms initiated by Wollongong corruption revelations.

Party candidates are now banned from receiving direct donations, but will still benefit from donations distributed via party headquarters. Party councillors do not have to disclose developer donations before development decisions. As it should be, Independents must declare

all relevant donations before decisions. The declaration threshold is reduced from \$1500 to \$1000, in-kind donations are capped at \$1,000, and disclosures are required twice a year.

In Parliament I called for a maximum limit on donations, and a ban on donations from high-risk conflict-of-interest occupations, including developers.



In all the heated conflict over electricity privatisation, the critical issue of global warming has been

ignored. The Government must set rules to ensure progressive greenhouse gas reductions from

electricity regardless of ownership. Sales contracts should prohibit new coal-fired power stations and set a timeframe to phase out existing ones. Renewable clean energy should be encouraged by government policy and concessions.

A deal between the Government and Coalition has delayed legislation debate until the Auditor General provides a financial assessment. I called on the Auditor-General to also address climate change and asked the Premier to rule out industry compensation for the financial impacts of emissions trading.

Without environmental guarantees I cannot support the privatisation proposal.



ENVIRONMENT IGNORED in power privatisation debate

Guns for development

In Wollongong it was sex for development, in Macquarie Street it is guns. The Shooters Party's *Firearms Amendment Bill* sidestepped normal process and was pushed through Parliament "coincidentally" days after their crucial vote helped the Government pass pro-development and anti-democratic planning laws.

I opposed the Bill because it weakens the national unified gun controls introduced after the Port Arthur massacre.

Food outlet HYGIENE

Most of the five million cases of food sickness annually in Australia are from food prepared outside the home. The *Food Amendment (Public Information on Offences) Bill* will enable publication of convictions and penalties for hygiene breaches on the Food Authority's website.

In Parliament I raised concerns that the Food Authority does not have to publish all information and Councils, that do inspections, remain limited in



what they can release. I am pleased that convictions have begun to be published.

I asked the Government to use best practice and require publication of inspection and rating reports, to help further reduce food-related illnesses.

Locking up the VULNERABLE

I was the only MP to oppose the *Housing Amendment (Tenant Fraud) Bill*, which allows Housing NSW to put public housing tenants in prison for fraud even when they have a mental illness or disability or make mistakes.

Debate in Parliament focused on extreme cases, but existing legislation allows imprisonment for serious fraud. No other housing agency in Australia threatens serious penalties for minor transgressions.

Most cases of public housing fraud involve small gains or procedural mistakes, and the threat of legal action could be used to force tenants to accept tenancy terminations or unfair financial conditions, or discourage them from seeking work.

Better review processes would address problems while protecting tenants' rights.



Frustrating FOI

NSW has an appallingly low rate of Freedom of Information disclosures. Faced with extended Government inaction, the NSW Ombudsman has begun his own review and in Parliament I asked the Premier to commit to implementing the review recommendations.

I support Queensland's proposed open-access approach with the onus on government to justify withholding information.

Parliament supports equality

Parliament changed 57 Acts, Regulations and By-laws to provide more equal treatment for gay men and lesbians. These include protecting children's rights, with both lesbian parents who conceive through donor fertilisation able to be listed on birth certificates, so that both can sign school permission slips and give medical consent.

Copies of my submissions and speeches are available from my Electorate Office or on my website.

PETS in the city

Despite the high rate of pet ownership, NSW pet owners are often treated like second-class citizens through unnecessarily restrictive policies. With low rates of car ownership and private open space, and high rates of renting and strata living, inner city residents are most affected.

Pets travel free on public transport subject to reasonable requirements in many cities, while in NSW pets are banned from trains, and bus and ferry drivers can refuse to take pets on board. Here, the NSW default in strata and tenancy agreements is blanket bans on pets, but in other cities such bans can be overridden to enable tenants to keep a pet, including through 'pet' bonds.

In Parliament I again asked the Government to promote responsible pet ownership and make pet owners equal citizens.

TRANSPORT, ACCESS & RAIL HERITAGE

Now... the bus to nowhere!

The 311 bus serves the densest residential population in Sydney and yet since the 2001 Government "Better Buses" promise, waiting times have progressively worsened.

Now, direct access to Circular Quay and Railway Square and the Elizabeth Bay loop are proposed to be dropped. Meanwhile, Woolloomooloo has become a bus thoroughfare with empty buses from Strathfield and Burwood using Riley and Crown Streets to terminate at the Domain Parking Station.

While the proposed re-routing of 300 series buses responds to the growing

Green Square/South Sydney development area, additional services are needed for Redfern and Surry Hills where residents watch full buses drive past.

I have notified residents most affected by proposals, made submissions to the Government and repeatedly asked for destination-based planning that coordinates with other forms of transport. Proposed changes are "band-aid" solutions for traffic congested routes and bus build-ups in city streets, and the Government's head is firmly in the sand about more efficient forms of transport for a modern city.



Slow progress on disability access

Advocating for accessibility

Government compliance with anti-discrimination legislation to provide disability access to railway stations is slow. Only 25 per cent of stations comply, leaving a major proportion of public transport facilities inaccessible. In response to my request, the Minister for Transport told me that St James, Martin Place, Newtown and the southern entrance of Central will be upgraded

within five years, but Edgecliff Station won't happen until 2015/2016, although it was previously scheduled for 2011/2012.

"Easy Access" upgrades include lifts and ramps, CCTV coverage, better lighting, tactile indicators on the ground and accessible toilets.

Destruction of rail heritage site

The Redfern Waterloo Authority proposes to cram the Carriage Works site at North Eveleigh with apartments to maximise sale profits to the private sector.

2000 car parks are proposed right next to a railway station, and there is no usable open space. The site's significant heritage has been ignored, including opportunities for future transport needs or artisans' workshops in existing industrial buildings.

Associated historic rolling stock and artefacts are being banished from the site. State Rail's collection

of historic carriages will be removed for redevelopment of the Paint Shop, and the Locomotive 3801 has been removed from the Large Erecting Shop. Guido Gouverneur, who preserves tools and machinery, and produces wrought iron work in the Blacksmith's Shop, has been given an eviction notice.

At the City's recent well-attended community meeting, Sydney University presented alternative ideas for the site.



Guido (right) in the Blacksmith's Shop

The alienation of Moore Park continues

After the scandalous cave in by the State Government to rezone public land adjacent to Moore Park

(Aussie) Stadium for development, the Sydney Cricket Ground and Sports Ground Trust continues to

push for more access and control over Moore Park.

Now the Sporting Trust is managing car parking in Moore Park, and controlled parking in the Kippax Lake area has become a free-for-all with cars parked amongst trees. There seems to be no end to the progressive alienation of public land, and no action in sight to limit private car access to address worsening area traffic gridlock.



Parking damage to parklands

SECURING food supplies

Only 10 per cent of Australia is suitable for growing food, and climate change and natural disasters including droughts threaten sustainability.

Diversion of food crops to bio-fuels is increasing pressure on food supplies, and rising oil prices add to fertiliser and transport costs. The United Nations sees rising food prices as one of the world's biggest challenges.

Inner city food supplies depend on Sydney fringe areas, which are 30 times more productive than the rest of NSW. But State planning is focussed on development for population growth, which encroaches on this most productive land.

In Parliament I called on the NSW Government to develop a Sydney food security project.



DA over-develops White City

The development application (DA) for Paddington's White City goes beyond facilities that support tennis, to allow for entertainment and functions.

The building is bulky, exceeds height and floor space controls, and fails to complement the unique built form of the Paddington Conservation Area. Car parking is increased from 50 to 256 spaces, which will intensify local traffic problems.

The White City Development Control Plan (DCP) prepared by Woollahra Council embodies important aims for the site developed after consultation with the community. *My submission asks Woollahra Council to ensure that development complies with the DCP.*

Reducing waste by RECYCLING

A refundable container deposit levy on the purchase of drink cans and bottles encourages recycling of containers. It has achieved 90 per cent recycling rates in South Australia, while the rest of Australia only recycles around 36 per cent of glass and 31 per cent of plastic.

In Parliament I again urged the Government to introduce a container deposit levy in NSW and support a unified national system.

saluting POLICE LEADERSHIP



Superintendent Donna Adney & Clover

The new Surry Hills Police Commander, Superintendent Donna Adney, has adapted police strategies and responded to concerns about homophobic violence. She has been appointed as the Gay, Lesbian, Transgender Police Corporate Spokesperson, and new Police Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers are being trained. Donna co-chairs a new Crime Prevention Partnership for the inner city that will address alcohol-related crime

and anti-social behaviour, including on late night transport.

I also welcome Commanders for Kings Cross (Supt Tony Crandell), City Central (Supt Mark Murdoch), The Rocks (Supt Ken Finch), Rose Bay (Supt Allan Sicard) and Redfern (Supt Luke Freudenstein). I work closely with local Police Commanders to ensure strategic approaches to crime and street security including regular police patrols.

Reforming health

My submission to the Inquiry into Acute Care Services in NSW Public Hospitals called for a new focus on consumer rights and sickness prevention. Community based services have not been increased to meet the needs or respond to early discharge

and “hospital in the home” strategies. This failure to act has contributed to the heavy load on hospital Emergency Departments and has added to the pressures on crisis treatment.

I called for funding to reflect inner city needs, including for mental health; alcohol/drug and dual diagnosis services; and for dental care, all of which have been the “poor cousins” in health funding. Recent Council of Australian Governments agreements provide hope that the historic buck-passing will be stopped.



ENSURING education staffing needs

In response to my requests, the Education Minister has told me that some aspects of the teacher transfer system will be retained, however many teachers remain concerned that hard-to-staff schools will not get experienced staff.

I've asked for a review of school counselling services to meet increasing needs and expectations.

And I've expressed concerns about proposed TAFE restructuring which increases teacher workloads and imposes an unfair fee burden on part time and low income students.

Supporting creative industries

NSW is home to more than a third of Australia's artists, and creative industries are the fastest-growing employer. But Sydney is losing film making and other creative initiatives and arts funding is declining and is less per person than other States.

Every year millions of people visit and participate in artistic and cultural events. Progressive governments actively encourage creativity, understanding its impetus for urban colour and vibrancy.

In Parliament I asked the Government to support and encourage a thriving cultural economy that keeps artists in the city through tax incentives and interest-free loans, and a Sydney Film Authority to promote and oversee filming related activities, with increased funding, payroll tax incentives, and crew rebates.

