



alex greenwich
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR SYDNEY

sydney news

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Moore Park Win

Plans to build a stadium on Moore Park have been stopped... for now!

The government promised to spend \$1.6 billion on sports stadiums across the state and the sports minister and the SCG Trust were pushing for a new facility on Moore Park east. But the Premier decided that funding will go to Homebush and to refurbish the existing SCG stadium.

I've been raising this in Parliament and with ministers since information was leaked over a year ago and I thank everyone who campaigned and wrote letters to government and media.

Other pressures on the parklands continue hence we must remain vigilant.

A Background Briefing report alleged that the Tibby Cotter Bridge was built to link patrons from a secretly planned car park under Moore Park west, and the light rail project risks loss of green open space and tree canopy.

On SCG land, a six-storey rugby and sports science centre will be built on the Gold Members Car Park, under new lease arrangements hidden in statute law which is normally reserved for 'routine clean-up' legislation.

SCG development is already hidden from the public until building starts, with plans signed off by the sports minister. My private members bill will require community consultation and a public approval process but the bill needs government support to pass.

I will continue to push the government to protect public green open space.

Alex Greenwich MP
Member for Sydney

SYDNEY ELECTORATE WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Emelda Davis: Sydney Electorate Woman of the Year! Emelda worked to get official recognition of the Australian South Sea Islanders and acknowledgement of Australia's shameful slave labour history. She's also raised funds and arranged supplies to Pacific Islands following natural disasters.

POWERHOUSE CLOSURE DEBATED

Our petition of 10,000 signatures forced Parliament to debate the Powerhouse Museum relocation. Debate revealed the government has no plan or funding and hasn't consulted on proposals. Western Sydney deserves an institution that celebrates it, not one taken from the city.

OPAL CHANGES WOULD HURT SENIORS

My submission opposed IPART's proposed increase to the Gold Opal Card cap from \$2.50 to \$3.60 for pensioners or \$9 for seniors. The rises would discourage older people from leaving their homes and engaging in community and social activities.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT WORKER WIN

Our advocacy got the state government to restore funding to the Women's Family Law Support Service, which helps women who experience domestic violence through the court process and links them to services.



Sydney's inspiring local woman of the year: Emelda



Parliament filled with supporters to save the Powerhouse

contacts

Alex Greenwich MP
Independent Member for Sydney

58 Oxford St, Paddington NSW 2021
Telephone 9360 3053
Email sydney@parliament.nsw.gov.au

www.alexgreenwich.com.au

FROM PARLIAMENT

WHY BURN FOOD FOR FUEL?

Biofuels are linked to food price hikes, deforestation, soil erosion and polluted waterways and their environmental benefits are modest and declining with vehicle efficiency improvements. Yet the government is forcing more retailers to sell ethanol. NSW has one ethanol producer which has made massive political donations. In Parliament I argued that public transport and cycling investment are better ways to reduce fossil fuel reliance.

CLOSING RAILWAYS

The government pushed through new laws that enable it to bypass Parliament and use ministerial approval to close railway corridors for 'state significant' infrastructure development. During debate I argued that closure of railways can exclude future transport options therefore Parliament remains the best body to assess and approve decisions.

MENTAL HEALTH ACTION

In Parliament, I spoke about important local initiatives in mental health like the Inner City Cadre Project, the Urban Partnership for Integrated Inner City Healthcare and Wellbeing, and the many local community organisations providing support. I called on the government to increase funding to fill the massive and well-known gap between need and support.

A.R.T. DISCRIMINATION REMOVED

I supported changes to the Assisted Reproductive Technology Act to ensure lesbian couples can use the same donor even if he has already donated to five women. In 2010 a 'five women limit' was introduced to reduce chances of individuals conceived with the same donor unknowingly becoming romantically involved. This is not a risk for lesbian couples whose children are raised as siblings and a 'five family limit' will now apply.



HISTORIC 78ERS APOLOGY

I joined colleagues from all sides to apologise on behalf of the NSW Parliament to the 78ers – they marched for love and equality and were met with brutality and intimidation. Fifty seven were arrested and publication of their names and addresses in The Sydney Morning Herald led to job losses and exclusion from family. I thanked the 78ers for using the trauma and positivity from the rally to advance fairness and acceptance, which continues to inspire my work as an advocate.

RIGHT TO PROTEST CURBED

I opposed new draconian laws that massively hike fines, increase search powers and create new offences for peaceful protesting. The government wants to curb protests at mines but other protests will also be affected. Healthy democracies encourage public display of opinion and do not punish dissent against government decisions and policies.

HOMELESSNESS ON THE RISE

I took part in the City of Sydney Homelessness Street Count, which identified the highest number of people sleeping rough and in emergency accommodation in six years. In response to my question in Parliament, the housing minister described the government's plans to fund new housing in partnership with the private sector and identified the need to do more.

I worked to restore government funding of women's refuges and continue to oppose inner city social housing sales, especially at a time when the private market is the most unaffordable it's been for decades.

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work at

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www.alexgreenwich.com.au



Volunteers across Sydney supporting rough sleepers



Community lead mental health initiatives work



35-storey tower could block harbour from Pymont

DARLING HARBOUR LOSES HUMAN SCALE

The introduction of high rise buildings as part of the redevelopment of the convention, exhibition and entertainment centres has set a dangerous precedent and now we are seeing tower proposals on Darling Harbour, which traditionally has been low rise.

The proposed 23-storey hotel on the IMAX site will impose on public and private views, reduce Darling Harbour's integration with adjacent precincts, create traffic congestion with 170 car spaces and commercialise the harbour with a large audio-visual screen. The low rise Harbourside Shopping Centre was recently bought by a developer who now proposes a 35-storey commercial office tower on the waterfront – talk about ad hoc planning! My submissions continue to oppose inappropriate development.

PUNISHING CYCLISTS CONTINUES

Around the world governments are encouraging cycling but in NSW bike lanes are getting ripped up and cycling targets abandoned. Bicycle penalties will increase to match motorist offences even though cars pose much greater safety risks. Helmets are mandatory in few countries but here fines for not wearing one will rise from \$71 to \$319. Cyclists will have to carry ID. These punitive measures will discourage cycling and in Parliament I asked the minister to provide evidence of the benefit of the changes.

LIME STREET LAYOVER

Since changes to CBD buses in October, King Street Wharf has become a transport interchange from 4.30 am. Buses and taxis drive around, block access and leave engines running; adjacent residents face noise and air pollution as well as traffic and parking impacts. I've repeatedly asked the transport minister for solutions and he has promised action but not provided details. I continue to follow up.

NIGHT ROAD WORKS MUST PROTECT RESIDENTS

RMS rules force utility companies and other contractors to do noisy excavation works at night, even on small local roads. Woolloomooloo and East Sydney were subject to jackhammering on consecutive nights from numerous projects. I've asked the roads minister to review the guidelines to protect residents and coordinate excavation works between agencies.

WOOLLAHRA MERGER DEBATED

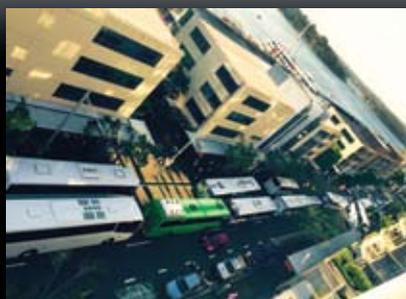
Woollahra council residents overwhelmingly don't want their local government area merged with Randwick and Waverley, and during debate in Parliament on a petition signed by over 10,000 people, I again called on the government to honour their wishes. The proposed merger risks higher rates, reduced heritage protections and loss of grassroots representation. There is no social or economic reason to change Woollahra council's local governance structure.

STREET TREE VANDALISM

Ausgrid lopping has destroyed tree canopy on Paddington and Darlinghurst streets – a problem across inner city streets where successive governments have refused to invest in undergrounding. In response to our complaints, the government reduced maximum clearance guidelines for regrowth from 2 to 0.5 metres, though it will depend on tree regrowth points. I welcome this small improvement, but the government should bundle all cables to reduce the need for pruning.



Cyclists rally against unfair regulation



Lime Street Layover increasing congestion



Street trees sadly being destroyed

Campaigns & People

REMEMBERING ROBYN KEMMIS

The untimely death of Deputy Lord Mayor Robyn Kemmis in December is a great loss to inner city communities. She was a strong advocate for social justice and worked for vulnerable communities, the environment, LGBTI equality, Aboriginal people, social housing and women's rights. She was a mentor and a friend and will be sadly missed.

TWO YEARS OF LOCKOUTS

Some people want the lockout laws continued and others want them withdrawn. We cannot go back to the times when emergency wards were filled with victims of violence every Friday and Saturday night, but the laws need to be improved to protect Sydney's nightlife. My speech in Parliament and submission make suggestions to get the balance right for safety, vibrancy and diversity.

28 MILLERS POINT HOMES SAVED

The minister agreed to requests to retain some social housing in Millers Point for the most vulnerable tenants, but only 28 units. I continue to work with the Millers Point Community Working Party to advocate for more low cost homes that meet the needs of the most vulnerable.

SAVING THE GAP

The South Head national park is a haven of ocean cliffs, lookouts, secluded beaches and biodiversity. But a proposal to upgrade six heritage buildings into function centres, restaurants and visitor accommodation threaten this sensitive ecosystem through noise, traffic and pollution. In Parliament I spoke in support of the over 12,000 signature petition, arguing that national parks should be managed for nature and heritage and not commercialised.

PILL TESTING COULD SAVE LIVES

The law and order approach has not stopped people from taking drugs, but leaves them taking substances of unknown strength and makeup, and in larger doses to avoid getting caught. Low level users get criminalised while traffickers and suppliers are not affected. It's time we treat drugs as a health issue based on evidence and harm minimisation. I asked the Premier to trial pill testing as done in Switzerland, Germany, Spain and France.

TRANS ROUNDTABLE WITH STEPHEN WHITTLE

I hosted a visit to Parliament by Stephen Whittle, Professor of Equalities Law at Manchester Metropolitan University, advisor to the UK and other world governments on gender recognition and transgender policy, and trans himself. We had a roundtable discussion with members of Parliament, including the Attorney General and trans advocates.

ADDRESSING STROKES SOONER

Stroke is our second biggest killer and over 150,000 people in NSW have had a stroke. In Parliament I asked the government to fund the StrokeConnect program, which connects stroke survivors and carers with support and services, and to promote the FAST campaign, which teaches people how to recognise the early signs of a stroke and take action quickly.



Robyn Kemmis, a true champion for Sydney



Stakeholders for a safe nightlife



Millers Point battle continues



Working towards trans reforms and equality



Four tips to detect stroke, fast