

Getting Sydney's Nightlife Right

Alcohol associated violence and anti-social behaviour in late night hot spots has declined but so has Sydney's nightlife and we need to do something to restore vibrancy while retaining safety.

The recently released Callinan Review did not get the balance right; it recommended that both the 1.30 am lockout and 3.00 am cessation of alcohol service in the CBD, Oxford Street and Kings Cross precincts be pushed back by half an hour while overlooking much-needed reforms.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore and I presented to the minister ways to improve the laws including lifting the 1.30 am lockout for live performance venues, small bars of 120 patrons and well managed venues on a trial basis – across the board or in the CBD and Oxford Street.

Concentrations of 24-hour beer barns without transport cause violence and conflict so we asked for planning tools to prevent areas becoming saturated with venues, for all-night trains and for venue diversity support. Late night licences should be renewable to encourage good management.

A half hour easing will not help the 40 per cent drop in live music revenue or stop multiple venue closures and I hope the government responds holistically to concerns.

We can have a diverse and lively late night economy without clogging our emergency services. A bill will likely be introduced this year.



Alex Greenwich MP
Member for Sydney

HAPPY MOON FESTIVAL!

I attended the Australian Chinese Community Association's Moon Festival celebrations – a harvest festival celebrated by ethnic Chinese and Vietnamese during the northern hemisphere Autumn. I supported Community Building Partnership grants to help the organisation upgrade its Surry Hills office.

CONGRATULATIONS CLOVER AND TEAM

Congratulations to the Lord Mayor Clover Moore and all councillors on being elected to the City of Sydney. Our offices will continue a cooperative relationship. Woollahra council will continue to operate standalone while it appeals the court decision that supports amalgamation with Randwick and Waverley.

FISH MARKET RESIDENTIAL SURGE

Alarming media reports indicate high rise towers on the Fish Market site, which would privatise the harbour foreshore and public water views, and choke transport and education infrastructure. I asked the planning minister to work with the community and council to determine an appropriate density for the site.

SCG TRANSPARENCY BLOCKED

The government and opposition blocked my bill that would have required consultation on and independent assessment of SCG development proposals – the sports minister currently approves them behind closed doors. No other land owner has such extraordinary planning law exemptions.

NEW OFFICE

My electorate office has moved to Oxford Street, Darlinghurst, on the corner of Brisbane Street. I loved working in Paddington but there was no disability access and facilities needed improvement. Parliament leases all MP offices and approves their location.



Drop in to my new office



New City of Sydney councillors being sworn in

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FROM PARLIAMENT

NEW HOUSING INVESTMENT

I supported the government's new housing fund legislation, which quarantines a \$1.1 billion investment with interest payments used to bridge the gap between costs and returns for social and affordable housing projects by consortia of community housing providers, financiers, developers, land owners and NGOs.

During debate I welcomed this new approach to expand stock and asked the government to ensure that housing continues to be available after the 25 years the scheme will operate.

NEW EDUCATION BODY MUST PROTECT STUDENTS

All students must have access to a safe and inclusive learning environment free from discrimination regardless of their sex; LGBTI, marital or domestic status; or if they have a disability. In debate on the bill to set up the new Education Standards Authority, I asked the minister to ensure that existing protections for students in private schools stay under the new scheme – protections that were part of the government's response to my 2013 bill to remove exemptions from the Anti-Discrimination Act.

WHY DEREGULATE DEBT COLLECTORS?

The government is de-licensing the debt collection industry so that anyone can conduct debt collection and repossession activities. This will encourage more debt collection agencies not covered by an ombudsman or ASIC guidelines, leaving vulnerable people who cannot keep up with their bills at risk of harassment. During debate I asked the government to follow other states and protect social security payments from direct debt recovery.



MAJOR PARTIES IGNORE ANIMAL CRUELTY

The major parties reached new lows in their political games: Labor promised a strong animal welfare policy before the election, but opposed the greyhound racing ban to cause pain for the government and the government claimed a ban was the only solution but backed down to support industry tweaks. The Special Commission of Inquiry concluded that the shocking cruelty of mass killings, frequent injuries, painful DIY treatment, live baiting and long term kennelling cannot be fixed.

Parliament should close this cruel, small, government and gambling subsidised industry. I will continue to oppose animal cruelty including hen and rabbit battery farming, and sow stalls.

HARM MINIMISATION SUMMIT

I'm working with Labor, Liberal and Green colleagues to build support for new approaches to drug use and problems. At our August summit, health workers, academics and legal experts supported a pill testing trial and decriminalisation of use. The 1999 Drug Summit's reforms continue to save lives but law and order still dominate drugs policy. The Premier and Opposition Leader should co-convene a new summit and commit to evidence-based action. We need to prevent death and injury, encourage those with problems to get help and reduce crime.

BUSINESS VOTING NEEDS FAIRNESS

The City of Sydney election saw resident voters angry that businesses got double their votes, and business voters concerned about complex legislative requirements. I asked the Premier to work with the City of Sydney on a fairer and more efficient way to encourage business participation in elections, but unfortunately he did not commit to improvements.



Working together for safer drug laws



Voters back 'One Vote, One Value'

follow my
work at

www.alexgreenwich.com.au



ELIZABETH BAY MARINA SLATED FOR EXPANSION

Proposed upgrades to the Elizabeth Bay Marina would increase the height of the facility, and boat activity with more and larger berths. The marina needs revitalisation but the expansion would impact on Beare Park amenity through visual and noise pollution, lost harbour views, and traffic and parking congestion. Roads and Maritime Services will self-assess a final proposal. I asked the minister to reduce its scale and submit an open public development application.



OXFORD STREET REGENERATION

Creative initiatives like co-working spaces, artwork, Activate Oxford Street and the William Street Festival are bringing new life to Oxford Street and I asked Destination NSW to meet with the Darlinghurst Business Partnership, Potts Point Partnership and Surry Hills Creative Precinct about attracting tourists seeking real Sydney life experiences.

The clearway continues to make the street noisy, polluted and unsafe. In Parliament I repeated calls for its removal, and for lockout exemptions to support live performance and small bars. I will meet with City of Sydney officers and business owners about curating tenancies.



More Scottish Hospital trees targeted to go



Pymont residents impacted by Hanjin California

MOORE PARK MASTER PLAN NOT RIGHT

The draft Moore Park Master Plan 2040 would green parts of Moore Park and make the precinct more accessible; however its focus is activation and organised sport over expanding public open space. My submission opposed alarming proposals for buildings adjacent to the ES Marks Athletic Field and changes to the Entertainment Quarter's planning controls for short term accommodation. Event parking on Moore Park east will be moved elsewhere in the precinct including on a multi-storey car park at the golf course.

Moore Park's primary role should be to provide for the open space needs of the region, which will house 61,000 new residents by 2030.

MORE SCOTTISH HOSPITAL TREES TO GO

Proposed changes to the Scottish Hospital redevelopment will remove and relocate more trees, reducing the remnant forest and canopy cover of what was once an historic garden and microhabitat. Aged care is vital but this is an important heritage site within heritage Paddington and my submission argued that construction must work around trees and protect the landscape.

FREIGHT SHIP IMPACTS PYRMONT

Pymont residents were subject to ongoing noise, light and air pollution from the freight ship Hanjin California which was relocated to Glebe Island after an ownership dispute prevented its goods from being unloaded at Port Botany. I asked the minister to urgently move the ship and prevent impacts from 24/7 running generators and lighting. The ship has been moved and I'm awaiting a reply about why it got transferred to this residential precinct in the first place.

ADDRESSING MINING

Government MPs tried to stop me from speaking in Parliament about the impacts of coal mining, coal seam gas and climate change. Rapid mining expansion is unsustainable and threatens food, water, biodiversity and health. We need exclusion zones to ban mining of agricultural land, water catchments and waterways, high conservation value land and towns. Mining companies should not be able to avoid rehabilitating sites.

Campaigns & People

NATIONAL ART SCHOOL AT RISK

The National Art School could be subsumed within the University of NSW as part of a wider amalgamation proposal that would leave Sydney with only one art school. Its unique atelier educational model could be lost and old Darlinghurst Gaol sold for redevelopment. In Parliament I submitted petitions with over 14,000 signatures calling for the school to remain independent and receive federal funding. Different education approaches produce diverse artistic talents vital to Sydney's cultural fabric.

MENTAL HEALTH CO-WORKING SPACE

Together with the Mental Health Commissioner, I launched Collective Purpose, an inspiring co-working space for mental health and advocacy organisations on William Street in the city. The space was partly funded by a Community Building Partnership grant that I supported.

SUPPORTING SAFE SCHOOLS

I joined parliamentary colleagues from across the political spectrum to show support for LGBTI and same sex attracted students and school programs like 'Safe Schools' that protect them from bullying and abuse. Unfortunately the issue came up through a petition calling for the program to be abolished and some members' contribution fed community misinformation; however LGBTI allies in the house continue to grow.

PETS ARE IMPORTANT

In Parliament, I again spoke about the vital role that pets play in our lives, while calling for action to prevent unwanted breeding, oversupply and dumping of animals, along with the need to allow pets on public transport and in retirement villages.

SAVE SIRIUS

I joined public housing tenants, Millers Point residents, architects, community defenders and Lord Mayor Clover Moore to rally against the sale and demolition of the Sirius building, which was purpose-built public housing in the Brutalist fashion. Ignoring the NSW Heritage Council's unanimous advice, the government did not list Sirius on the heritage register so that it sells for a higher price. The community will appeal the decision not to list the building. See: <http://saveoursirius.org>.

INNER CITY FERRY SERVICES NEEDED

The government's May 2013 'Sydney's Ferry Future' strategy identified a need for routes to Barangaroo, Glebe Point, Johnston's Bay Pyrmont, Woolloomooloo and Elizabeth Bay. While the Barangaroo wharf is well underway, we've not seen progress on other sites and I've asked questions and created a petition calling for new wharves and services.



Artists rally to save NAS - photo by Peter Morgan



Mental health co-working space launched



Cross party support for LGBTI students



My rescue dog, Max



Defenders rally against demolishing Sirius