



**alex greenwich**  
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR SYDNEY

# sydney news

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## Growing Need for New High School

When I was first elected, I successfully campaigned with the community for an inner city high school. Now families in the east need new high school options.

Rose Bay Secondary College had to install demountable classrooms and has no space to expand. The expanded Alexandria Park and planned Cleveland Street high schools will fill quickly and have long travel times from Paddington, Woollahra, Edgecliff and further east. Development targets will increase demand.

Most local private schools are selective, expensive, religious and single sex, and have waiting lists. Many parents prefer public education.

I met with parents and local councillors on the need to plan for a new school before there is no space left to build.

In response to my question in Parliament, the minister acknowledged land challenges in the east but did not commit to finding new space. It took a strong community campaign to get the Cleveland Street high school and I will keep working with campaign group CLOSEast for a public school in the east.

**Alex Greenwich MP**  
Member for Sydney

### UPDATE ON STADIUM SPLURGE

The knock down and rebuild of Allianz Stadium is wasteful and will damage Moore Park. While I continue to oppose the plan, the government has agreed to my call for a public EIS process. Sign my petition to stop the project.

### SHORT TERM LETTING ACTION NEEDED

Apartment communities must be able to democratically set the rules for short term letting in their buildings but the government's new laws could exclude owners' corporation powers. We must increase the pressure! Call my office or visit my website for a petition. I also have a petition for short term letting regulations to protect people in terraces.

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACTION

Sydney housing affordability has reached record lows, more than half of lower income households are in housing stress and homelessness is increasing. Government strategies to increase housing supply have not improved affordability. My motion in Parliament calls for 15 per cent affordable housing targets in redevelopments, council levies for affordable housing, an end to inner city social housing sales and a ban on wholesale conversion of homes into holiday lets.

### RENEWABLE ENERGY MUST REPLACE COAL

In Parliament I'm pushing for a transfer from 77 per cent coal power to 100 per cent clean energy in NSW. The expert "Repowering our Regions" roadmap shows renewable energy and storage technology can provide our energy needs. We're seeing climate disruption already. NSW is lagging and the time to act is now.



Celebrating 40 years of Mardi Gras and our great win for equality



Happy Year of the Dog!

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## FROM PARLIAMENT

### SOME RENTERS STILL VULNERABLE

Renters who haven't signed a lease with a landlord but have an informal agreement with another tenant are not covered by tenancy laws and have few rights. They can be evicted without notice and refused bond for no reason, and can't access the tribunal for recourse. The government has been reviewing tenancy laws and in Parliament I asked the minister to introduce protections. While his response acknowledged a gap, he said the government would *monitor* the situation and complaints.

### MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT INVOLVEMENT

In Parliament I spoke against changes to make it easier for the Mental Health Review Tribunal to review involuntary treatment plans or authorise electro convulsive treatment without the patient being present. Currently the tribunal tries to ensure every patient has the opportunity to attend. Patient involvement is essential to recovery and I am concerned the tribunal will be forced to rely only on treating medical officers. A recent government report exposed the trauma patients experience when excluded from decisions on their treatment, particularly during restraint and seclusion.

### SCALPING CURBED

I supported the government's new anti-scalping laws in Parliament. Resale websites use software to buy event tickets in bulk and then resell them at massively inflated prices. They pay search engines to advertise so they come up at the top of event searches. New laws ban the software and put a cap on the profit when tickets are resold. Large scalping sites provide no benefit to consumers or artists. Some sites are still operating and I will raise this with the minister.

### POKIES' TOLL TO CONTINUE

New South Wales has over 94,000 electronic gaming machines and three quarters of the money going into them comes from problem and risk gamblers. Pokies' disastrous social costs include financial ruin, homelessness and broken families, yet both sides of politics remain set on ensuring pubs and clubs can keep running mini casinos. In Parliament I joined crossbenchers to oppose a bill that would help clubs transfer machines to other clubs without forfeiting an entitlement.



Drinking water catchment at risk

## DRINKING WATER PROTECTIONS WEAKENED

The government weakened protections to Sydney's water so that a coal mine that wholly supplies the Mount Piper power station could be expanded regardless of its discharge into our water catchment. New weaker rules now apply to all development across the catchment.

I opposed the bill and argued that the prospect of an energy crisis over the closure of one mine that pollutes our water supply proves that there is an urgent need to transfer to green renewable energy sources that don't risk our long term future.

## CIVIL RIGHTS FURTHER ERODED

I joined crossbench colleagues to oppose terrorism laws that allow the continued detention of an offender at the end of their sentence if the court thinks they *could* commit a terrorist act. Existing laws can deal with people who express an intention to conduct a terrorist attack; the new laws go further to detain someone based on their beliefs and comments. It is not the role of the courts to guess what someone will do and punish them for it.

While governments must take action on terrorism, imprisoning people for their beliefs or crimes they haven't committed will not protect us and are characteristic of countries that breed terrorism.



Scalping rips off artists and patrons



Two of the 94,000 gaming machines in NSW



## DISGRACEFUL WESTCONNEX SPREADS

In Parliament, I again called on the government to withdraw the planned Alexandria to Moore Park road changes, which will widen roads to make way for new traffic spilling into the streets from WestConnex. Moore Park land and over 100 trees will be lost, and new clearways introduced. The 12-lane 'continuous flow' intersection at Anzac Parade will take pedestrians 10 minutes to cross! Air quality, and pedestrian and cyclist safety will be eroded.

When associated road changes are included, WestConnex will cost a staggering \$50 billion. People want fast affordable public transport not motorways, and WestConnex will deplete future funds for sustainable transport.



Delivering your petitions on Glebe Island in Parliament

## GLEBE ISLAND INTENSIFICATION

Glebe Island should retain its working harbour but restrictions are needed to protect the thousands of people who now live directly across the harbour as a result of urban renewal policies. The planned building materials storage and distribution facility would allow unhindered 24-hour, seven days a week operations to meet demand, with no limits on ship or truck movements, no requirements to use shore to ship power and no bans on all night lighting.

The NSW Ports Authority is proposing, assessing and approving the proposal. My submission called for an independent assessment process and a strategic plan for The Bays Precinct before any development is approved for the region. Proposals for a concrete plant and construction site for roads projects on White Bay reinforce the need for a proper plan for the area.

## PROTECTING KINGS CROSS

Kings Cross must remain a diverse and vibrant hub and I opposed plans to demolish buildings that house the Bourbon and Empire hotels, a pharmacy, a medical centre, commercial space and serviced apartments, to construct a block of 83 apartments with two ground floor licensed venues and one retail space. The Bourbon's Victorian façade would be replaced with a six storey bland wall across the site. The proposal breaches heritage and height controls, neighbouring apartments would lose light and views, and over 100 extra cars would add to congestion.

The proposal will be determined by an appointed Independent Hearing and Assessment Panel not the City of Sydney, following planning legislation that I opposed in Parliament. I welcome the Lord Mayor's referral of the plan to the Design Advisory Panel.

## BANK STREET CAMPAIGN

UrbanGrowth's plans to transform the planned Bank Street public recreation park into a backend charter boat storage and waste facility is a terrible outcome for the harbour and I continue to call for it to be withdrawn. I made a second submission, called on the Premier to intervene and asked numerous questions in Parliament. Deals made and the government's long term plans for the site are unclear.

## ART GALLERY IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED

I urged the government to weigh up impacts and benefits for the Art Gallery of NSW expansion to ensure the final determination reflects the best public outcome. There is some community concern that the project will remove significant amounts of public open space. I opposed the outdoor Entry Plaza that paves and covers large amounts of land for a 'meeting place' that could be left green, which would be more appropriate and sensitive to the garden setting.



KX residents oppose demolishing Kings Cross icons



Bank Street park plans scrapped

follow my  
work at

[www.alexgreenwich.com.au](http://www.alexgreenwich.com.au)

# Campaigns & People

## SAVE OUR SIRIUS

The government's draft planning restrictions for the Sirius building preserve sightlines to the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House but fail to protect the social and architectural heritage of this iconic Brutalist building. My submission called for affordable housing targets and integration with The Rocks precinct. The government's eviction of disadvantaged and vulnerable tenants, sell-off of inner city social housing and failure to heritage list this rare architecture are a disgrace that a piecemeal planning instrument won't fix.

## COMPUTERS IN CELLS

The Minister for Correction's response to my questions about providing computers in jail cells shows progress in helping prisoners access counselling, education, legal resources and prison programs vital to rehabilitation and community re-integration. Measures to prevent misuse are included.

## CHILD ABUSE ROYAL COMMISSION

I congratulate the survivors of institutional child abuse who fought to expose wrongs through the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The commission confirmed cover-ups of horrific child abuse, with perpetrators protected. The final report recommended massive changes to build child safety into institutions including state government reforms for out-of-home care. I asked the Premier to ensure prompt and comprehensive action and the government has signed up to the national redress scheme. I've also asked that survivors on the social housing waiting list be given priority.

## CITY CYCLING

Cycling is clean and healthy and can reduce traffic and public transport congestion but the government massively increased penalties for cycling offences and removed one of the most used safe cycleways. In Parliament, I called on the government to follow other cities' lead and make cycling a safe option. Bikeshare schemes are causing some community concern and I've asked the government to regulate providers to ensure safety and prevent clutter.

## SYDNEY MARINE PARK

Creating a marine park for Sydney's waters will protect our rich biodiversity, help NSW meet international marine conservation obligations and boost tourism. While numerous government studies have recommended a marine park with sanctuary zones between Wollongong and Newcastle, government action has stalled. I keep asking questions in Parliament but we will need a loud community cry to get an outcome. Sign my petition – available on my website or from my office.

## NATURE THRASHED

Regional Forestry Agreements have allowed the decimation of public forests and native habitat from intensive logging yet the government has committed to extending them after they expire. Laws that govern the clearing of native vegetation on private land were drastically weakened and broadscale clearing is now permitted even though promised mapping of no-go zones has not been done. Threatened and vulnerable species are at risk of being wiped out, including koala populations and I am working with environment groups to expose the government's environmental recklessness.



Congratulations Myra Demetriou, Sydney Electorate Woman of Year and Sirius defender



At Parliament with institutional child abuse survivors



City cycling



Fairy Penguin protected by Jervis Bay Marine Park. Photo by Attila Kaszo, courtesy of NCC



Bulldozing our future. Photo by Phil Spark, courtesy of NCC