



newsletter 1 | december 2012

# sydney news

Alex Greenwich MP Member for Sydney



## WELCOME

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

It is an honour to represent the energetic and diverse Sydney State electorate.

The 27 October by-election was forced on us by the State Government which used its majority in the Lower House, along with support from the Shooters and Fishers Party and the Fred Nile Group in the Upper House to unseat the democratically elected member, Clover Moore.

The inner city vented its anger and voted to keep Sydney Independent. I pay tribute to Clover's dedication and achievements over 24 years representing you and taking on vested interests without fear. I will continue her grassroots approach to politics and use my voice in Parliament to get action on issues important to you.

Immediate challenges include achieving a planning system that gives us a say in our neighbourhood, restoring funding to the Centennial Parklands, retaining inner city social housing, getting an inner city public high school, reviving Oxford Street, preventing a second casino, and reforming strata.

We urgently need to address climate change, expand light rail, and end sanctioned cruelty to animals like factory farming. The State needs to follow Victoria's lead and help local businesses embrace the digital economy.

I will keep you informed with regular newsletters and through Facebook, Twitter and email newsletters. Please contact me if you have any NSW Government concerns: [sydney@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sydney@parliament.nsw.gov.au) or 9360 3053.

Thank you for your support and trust. I look forward to working with you.

Alex Greenwich MP  
Member for Sydney

#### My inaugural speech

I thanked my predecessor Clover Moore, the Sydney community and my supporters. I committed to work hard for you and with all my parliamentary colleagues on the challenges ahead.

#### Petitions – you can help

I will submit petitions for Government action each sitting day, including calls for a **container deposit scheme**, **pets on public transport** and **improved bus services**.

The latest petition opposes **Duck Hunting**, which was banned in NSW in 1995 because wounded birds often escape and die slowly and painfully.

The Shooters and Fishers Party, whose deal introduced shooting into National Parks, says duck hunting will return, and there are rumours of another deal behind closed doors. I oppose changes to the law which reintroduce this cruel blood-sport.

Call my office for a copy of a petition if you would like to collect signatures.

#### Seasons Greetings

Hoping your holidays are safe and give you time with loved ones and to refresh. May the New Year bring health and happiness!



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# sydneynews

**Alex Greenwich MP** Member for Sydney



## FROM PARLIAMENT

I began my term with only two weeks left of Parliament for the year. After being sworn in and making my inaugural speech, I asked questions about education and public housing, lodged petitions, sought to start a parliamentary committee on the digital economy, and met with a number of ministers and parliamentary colleagues.

### Schools Under Pressure

Successive governments have failed to plan for population growth - local schools are under pressure.

Inner city public high school students travel long journeys to get to school – more than an hour changing unreliable buses and the nearest schools are all full. Primary schools are also filling up and the city has limited space to expand.

All families should have access to good public education close to home. I met with the Minister and my first Question in Parliament asked him to ensure future education needs are met including making Cleveland Street School a high school and expanding primary school capacity. I will join his taskforce to find solutions.

### Community or Casino

My first speech in Parliament called on the Government to withdraw approval for a second Sydney casino and retain Millers Point low cost housing.

The Government changed the rules and no longer needs an independent evaluation before dealing with one company without tender, reportedly to allow James Packer to build a new casino. Sydney already has a waterfront casino and casinos have high social costs. Sydney should only have a second casino if consultation shows community support and impacts can be managed.

Meanwhile adjacent Millers Point public housing tenants fear they will lose their homes with reports of 250 properties under review for sale. While some vacant homes have been sold already, the new proposal would evict tenants, reduce inner city low cost housing and disrupt this supportive community.

### Protecting our Parklands

Despite rapid population growth in surrounding suburbs, the State Government will end its measly four per cent funding to the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust annual budget.

The parklands are a State Government responsibility. In Parliament I asked the Government to support the Trust's request for a \$20 million seed fund to provide ongoing revenue, which could come from the \$665 million expected stamp duty from the adjacent Green Square development.

### Out and About

Since becoming your MP, I have met with residents at The Rocks and City Central police meetings and the Surry Hills Community Drug Action Team. I visited Walla Mulla Family and Community Services, met with Ultimo Public School parents, attended the Plunkett Street Primary School playground re-opening, helped launch the Centennial Parklands 125th anniversary fundraising campaign, and met with residents at the Surry Hills and Potts Point Good Neighbourhood BBQ's. Many more meetings are in the diary.

**I look forward to meeting and working with more constituents and local organisations in the New Year!**



*Cleveland St High School... community's choice*



*Junior Jivers at Wayside Chapel*



*Centennial Park... needs more government support*



*With Leanne, Roy and Tammie who will continue working in the office with me*



*Millers Point residents being sold out*