

Homelessness Emergency

After sleeping rough and living in boarding houses and crisis accommodation as part of the SBS *Filthy, Rich and Homeless* program, I asked the Premier to treat homelessness as a state of emergency.

Homelessness is rising at epidemic rates and the threat to life is on the scale of a disaster. We need immediate and long term actions. We must give homeless services access to prisons and waive government service costs for people who are homeless.

Importantly we need more social and affordable housing. Building 5,000 new social housing homes every year to 2026 and mandating 15 per cent affordable rental homes in redevelopments will help house the 60,000 on the social housing waiting list and those having to choose between paying the rent and buying food.

Disappointingly, during Homelessness Week the government passed harsh laws to make it easier to evict social housing tenants instead of increasing help for people who have serious and complex needs. I joined the Greens to oppose the bill.

The government has a homelessness strategy and does outreach with rough sleepers but this is only tinkering at the edges. We can end homelessness by 2030 and I encourage you to support the Everybody's Home campaign, visit everybodyshome.com.au.



Alex Greenwich MP
Member for Sydney

REDRESS BEGINS

Many survivors of institutionalised child sex abuse have lifelong impacts from their experience and I welcome access to compensation of up to \$150,000, counselling and a response from the responsible institution. All institutions should opt in to this voluntary scheme to help survivors heal. The minister agreed to my request to give survivors priority on the housing waiting list.

MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN NSW LAW

State law has been updated to reflect marriage equality including removal of cruel 'forced trans divorce' provisions that prevented married trans persons from updating their birth certificate. We must now remove surgical requirements to change sex on a birth certificate given most people transition without surgery. I welcome the Attorney General's commitment to consider proposals.

PUPPY FARM OVERSIGHT

Puppy farms cheaply produce large numbers of kittens and puppies for sale through overcrowding, overbreeding and unsanitary conditions. Community pressure got the government to create a register to help track all cats and dogs advertised for sale with their breeder. While not groundbreaking reform, I supported changes which will improve oversight of this cruel underground industry.

SAFE ACCESS FOR ABORTIONS

I supported new laws to ensure women can safely access reproductive health clinics without harassment, intimidation or obstruction. Some anti-abortion activists hinder, harass, moralise, intimidate and distress women and staff attending clinics. This is not political protest but an invasion of privacy. Safe access zones cover 150 metres around clinic entrances.



With the cast of SBS's
Filthy, Rich and Homeless



The Rainbow Crossing is coming back

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FROM PARLIAMENT

DRUG DRIVING TESTS RAMP UP

Driver drug tests will now include cocaine in addition to cannabis, speed, ice and MDMA, and the number of operations will double. Driving under the influence of drugs is dangerous and a criminal offence, but the separate 'presence offence' criminalises driving with any trace of a listed drug in the system even if the effect has long worn off.

Despite the 'war on drugs' many people continue to take drugs and risk conviction and loss of licence. I told Parliament that we need to target driving under the influence not people's drug use history.

DESTROYING OUR FORESTS

Logging our State forests is unsustainable: it drives biodiversity loss, pollutes our waters and contributes to climate change. But operations are intensifying and expanding into previously protected areas with koala habitat rapidly being decimated. We urgently need a transition plan that creates new opportunities for regional communities like sustainable plantation. Forestry jobs are declining and a creative and resourceful government would find a solution that protects the long term future of forests. Business as usual is not an option and in Parliament I opposed redrafted laws that will prolong logging until there is almost no forest left.

HORSES IN NATIONAL PARKS

I did not support new laws to give the wild horses in the Snowy Mountains heritage status. The brumbies are causing significant damage to alpine and subalpine regions, putting threatened species at risk, and their numbers are growing. Giving a particular introduced species heritage status is not the way to stop cruel culling. We need to ban methods like aerial shooting and 1080 poisoning and invest in humane measures to stop unchecked population expansions.

VILIFICATION MADE CRIMINAL

Everyone has the right to live their life with dignity and peace, free from harassment and vilification. In 1993 Clover Moore's private member's bill made homosexual vilification and serious vilification an offence. In Parliament I supported laws to move serious vilification offences to the Crimes Act so that police can investigate and the courts can make rulings. More needs to be done to prevent abuse, harassment and discrimination and I again called for a full review of anti-discrimination laws.

I welcome the Parliamentary inquiry into LGBTI hate crimes from 1970 to 2000 and hope it helps end patterns of violence.



Updating building managers on strata law changes

SHORT TERM LETTING UPDATE

Our massive campaign got the government to give owners' corporations the power to ban commercial short term letting in their building by special resolution and limit short term letting in all residential homes to 180 days a year. There will be a mandatory Code of Practice to deal with recurrent 'party houses'.

While provisions will be difficult to enforce, they are better than the laissez-faire approach the government initially planned. Parliament passed my amendment to provide for a registration system, but gave the minister discretion to introduce this vital enforcement tool.

While short term letting can have benefits, left unchecked it can impact on housing affordability, community, amenity and costs. Changes are expected to come into force by the end of the year. I will continue to work to improve the system.

NEW OPTION TO PURSUE DEFECTS

The new Building Defects Scheme requires developers to lodge a two per cent bond of the contract price for fixing any apartment defects identified by independent building inspectors.

But the government introduced legislation to force owners' corporations to negotiate with the developer on the amount of bond released, resulting in a drawn out process of multiple consultants, reports and inspections followed by government intervention. Labor, the Greens and other independents supported my amendment to base release of the bond on a costed scope of works by an independent building inspector but the government blocked it. The house did pass my amendment to get the scheme reviewed in five years so we can ensure the new system helps apartment owners get redress for defects.



An international day to end discrimination...
IDAHOBIT



Threatened species' habitat at risk



Stadium creep by stealth

STADIUM REDEVELOPMENT SPILLS OVER SCG BOUNDARY

Promises to confine the stadium redevelopment within the SCG boundary are being broken. The SCG Trust lodged development applications to move its offices and gym, proposed for demolition as part of the redevelopment, into the Entertainment Quarter in demountable buildings and the Byron Kennedy Hall, affecting access to public land. The applications are for four years but there is a push to turn the EQ into an elite sports precinct and no information on where facilities will be relocated after the redevelopment. The trust also wants to convert Moore Park into fan zones with paved pathways. My submissions opposed the piecemeal and opaque planning process and the ever expanding encroachment on public space.



Metro stations streak skywards

SYDNEY METRO: THE (OVER)DEVELOPER

The government is using the Sydney Metro project as an excuse to overdevelop land and air above planned stations. Earlier this year it gave Sydney Metro special developer status and approved non-compliant towers above the Martin Place station. Now it wants planning approval for two towers over the Pitt Street station that will cast shadows on Hyde Park in breach of the LEP sun access plane designed to protect this important public park from CBD high rises. Over a hundred homes in adjacent buildings will lose almost all their winter sunlight. This is appalling.

Sydney Metro should respect good planning principles and be a good neighbour. I objected to the proposals and encourage you to **sign my petition**.

CASINO SUN DIAL ACROSS PYRMONT

The Star Casino's proposed 237-metre hotel and residential tower breaches height, floor space and zoning restrictions, would cast shadows through Pyrmont homes, streets, parks and public open space and would become a daunting bulky feature that destroys and brands skyline views. I asked the planning minister to refuse the application which I believe is wrongly being assessed under remnant Part 3A provisions.

Sign my petition against this disgraceful proposal.

DON'T WASTE GLEBE ISLAND!

I support Pyrmont residents' campaign to save Glebe Island from being converted into a heavy industrial shipping, storage and construction site. Glebe Island is only 200 metres from densely populated Pyrmont and residents are at risk of impacts from 24 hour noise, light and emissions, and thousands of truck movements.

I opposed the mega port proposals and in Parliament called on the government to honour its commitment to make Glebe Island/White Bay a tech hub.

SAVE THE EAST'S NATIONAL PARK

The Sydney Harbour National Park at Watson's Bay provides a rare natural haven for city residents and visitors to enjoy native flora and fauna along the harbour with ocean cliffs, secluded beaches and national park. But its peace and tranquillity are at risk by a plan for two new function centres hosting up to 400 guests late into the night with associated traffic and noise.

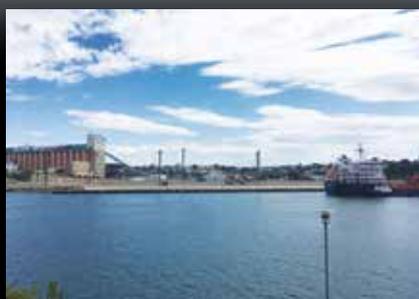
National parks should not be overrun by commercial operations and my submission opposed this latest proposal.

follow my
work at

www.alexgreenwich.com.au



Our petition helped strengthen short term letting reform



Mega port proposals for Glebe Island



Join the campaign to save the Gap Bluff
www.savesouthhead.com

Campaigns & People

RENTAL BILL NOT ENOUGH

Important reforms to improve rental home standards were undermined by the government's failure to remove no-grounds evictions. Evicting tenants for "no reason" hides unlawful retaliation against renters who pursue their rights to get repairs. Share-house renters without a written lease continue to be excluded from protections, leaving them vulnerable to eviction without notice and loss of bond and belongings. I supported good measures in the bill to help victims of domestic violence escape their perpetrators. It is unclear whether the Legislative Council will vote to remove no-grounds evictions.

MARINE CONSERVATION BACKFLIP

The NSW Government's decision to withdraw plans to conserve Sydney's marine biodiversity through new no-take zones is a disgrace. Only 4.6 per cent of waters between Wollongong and Newcastle were proposed no-fishing zones and these areas would have allowed fish species to regenerate, creating the best fishing spots in adjacent waters. I've been campaigning for a Sydney marine park since I was elected and we urgently need leadership to prevent aquatic species collapse.

PILL TESTING NEEDED

The NSW Government has its head in the sand on recreational drug use. Prohibition has not stopped demand or kept people safe. I joined my colleagues of the NSW Cross-Party Harm Minimisation Roundtable to ask the Premier to extend her expert panel on music festival safety beyond "new offences", "tougher sentencing" and "education" to also include pill testing and I gave notice to debate the benefits of pill testing in Parliament. Criminalising drug users burdens the courts, discourages people from getting help and funds organised crime.

PROTECTING DISABILITY ADVOCACY

The NDIS transition is complete but people continue to struggle to get into the system or establish appropriate plans. State-based services are gone, even those not covered by the NDIS with some people falling through the cracks. While the NSW Government extended independent disability advocacy funding for another two years, vulnerable people with disability will always need advocates to break barriers to care and get the help they need. In Parliament, I called for ongoing funding so people don't end up in crisis accommodation or prison – facilities already overrepresented with people with disability.

SAVING SYDNEY'S NIGHTLIFE

Sydney's late night scenes and opportunities for emerging performance artists are dwindling and I asked the minister for action. The half hour grace period for live music venues fails to provide the boost needed and little has come from the Night Time Economy Taskforce. I again told Parliament that the 1.30am lockout should not apply to well-managed venues and that saturation zones, late night transport and renewable late night licences will prevent violence. Sydney's prosperity will suffer if we let it become boring, cultureless and lifeless at night. I congratulate Paddington residents for saving the *Four in Hand Hotel* from becoming apartments.

ELECTION ALERT

The next NSW State Election is on 23 March 2019. Make sure you are on the electoral roll at your correct address. You can enrol to vote or update your address with the Australian Electoral Commission online at www.aec.gov.au/enrol/, pick up a form from Australia Post or call 13 23 26. If you are going to be away on election day, you can vote online or submit a postal ballot. To register for information on this process, please contact my office at sydney@parliament.nsw.gov.au.



Listening to renters' needs



Sydney Marine Park... on again, off again



With colleagues hearing from pill testing experts



People with disability will always need advocates



Paddington community saves the *Four in Hand*