



**alex greenwich**  
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR SYDNEY

**sydney news**

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# election alert

**The NSW State Election is on Saturday 23 March 2019.**

**Make sure you are on the electoral roll at your correct address at [www.aec.gov.au/enrol](http://www.aec.gov.au/enrol) or call 13 23 26. If you are unable to vote at a polling booth on election day, you can vote online via [www.ivote.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ivote.nsw.gov.au) or submit a postal ballot. For information on this process, you can contact my office on [sydney@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sydney@parliament.nsw.gov.au) or 9267 5999.**

## Four years of results for Sydney

Together we worked for a liveable, sustainable and progressive Sydney, keeping the environment, equality, affordable housing, homelessness, strata reform, education, animal welfare, planning, heritage, transport and the night time economy on the agenda.

I worked on legislation for voluntary euthanasia, transparency in SCG development, an independent Sydney Opera House, redress for defects, a short term letting registration system and a review of new offences related to sexually transmitted infections. While most amendments by non-government members don't pass in the government dominated Legislative Assembly, three of mine did.

I spoke 193 times and asked 546 questions. I lodged petitions everyday on a range of issues including to save the National Art School, the Sirius, the Powerhouse, and Woollahra council; for owners' corporation rights to control short term letting, inner city ferries and an upgrade to Edgecliff Station, and to ban plastic bags and pets in pet shops.

The last four years saw many retrograde changes that put our future at risk including mass deforestation, scaling back marine protections, public housing selloffs, massive overdevelopment, service cuts and mass privatisation. Notwithstanding,

we won some important battles and ran fantastic grassroots community campaigns.

We got funding restored to community legal centres, inner city women's refuges and disability advocacy services. Inner city and inner east council amalgamation plans were dropped and the government withdrew plans to build a stadium on Kippax Lake. A container deposit scheme is finally in place.

With your support and determination we finally won our long campaign for marriage equality, with NSW laws updated to be more inclusive of trans and gender diverse relationships. There is still more work to do for LGBTI equality, and our movement proved the momentum is unstoppable.

Parliament is now closed until after the State Election on 23 March. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the community for our city and those in need.

**Alex Greenwich MP**  
Member for Sydney

# my report card



## OUR PARKLANDS

We worked to protect our parklands from land grabs.

We stopped the 2015 plan to build a stadium on Moore Park next to Kippax Lake. While the government and opposition blocked my bill to remove SCG exemptions that allow it to build without a development application, the government agreed to my request for a public environmental impact assessment for the disgraceful stadium rebuild. I opposed the rebuild, which is bulky and supports SCG creep into the parklands.

I welcomed the Moore Park Master Plan 2040 commitment to take event parking off green open space but it should be removed not relocated elsewhere in the parklands. I opposed alarming proposals to change Entertainment Quarter planning controls for greater commercialisation including short term accommodation. Moore Park suffered from light rail development and I called for new recreation space in the Entertainment Quarter.



## YOUR HOME

Most inner city residents live in apartments and we finally got strata reforms to reduce proxy farming, smoke drift and overcrowding. I opposed changes that allow strata scheme terminations when 25 per cent of owners object, as vulnerable owners could lose their homes.

Our campaign got the government to limit short term letting in residential homes to 180 days a year and allow owners' corporations to ban commercial letting in their building by special resolution. I successfully moved amendments that will allow the government to set up a registration system of hosts. More is needed to stop quasi hotels in apartments and loss of affordable rentals.

After years of raising complaints about building defects that owners have to fix, developers must now lodge a bond set aside to remedy them. The government supported my amendment for a three year review after I argued that the process to access the bond is too complex.



## LOCAL DEMOCRACY

Community outrage saved the City and Woollahra from being subsumed into super councils. While both were independently assessed as financially "fit for the future", the government wanted to force politically favourable amalgamations.

I used the campaign to call for local election reform and the government introduced donation caps.

Unfortunately, unelected panels stacked with ministerial appointees now make most development decisions for councils behind closed doors under changes I opposed.

## NO TO PRIVATISATION

The government's privatisation agenda reflects ideological short-term thinking. The state's electricity network assets and land titles office were sold. WestConnex was sold and we don't know the deals made to increase bids, such as exclusion of future public transport. We lost CBD public buildings, and services including Services NSW and Sydney Metro were restructured to prepare them for privatisation. Crown land laws were changed to facilitate a fire sale of land and correctional facilities were privatised. While most sales can proceed without Parliament's approval, I spoke against the loss of public assets and services.

## EQUALITY

Great leaps in equality were achieved with the historic marriage equality win. Same sex couples and couples in gender diverse relationships can now marry each other. I worked to get the NSW Parliament behind the campaign, including in my 'Matter of Public Importance' debate. Consequential changes at the state level now allow married trans persons to update their birth certificate to reflect their sex without having to divorce.

I was part of Parliament's historic apology to the Mardi Gras 78ers who 40 years ago were treated with police brutality and outed by the press. They used the trauma and positivity from the peaceful protest to advance fairness and acceptance.

New laws made serious vilification based on race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, intersex status or HIV/AIDS diagnosis a criminal offence allowing police action and criminal convictions.

# a liveable, sustainable and progressive sydney



## A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

An environmental crisis is looming yet there are few wins on climate change and biodiversity collapse. Notwithstanding we exposed shameful destructive policies and got a container deposit scheme and a commitment for a city air quality monitoring station.

The government failed to show leadership on renewable energy. Dirty expensive coal fired power stations should not be replaced with coal and I pushed for a transfer to 100 per cent clean energy which experts say is possible and necessary. I opposed the disgraceful reintroduction of deforestation and expanded logging and exposed the token koala strategy's failure to protect habitat. Our work for a Sydney Marine Park achieved a draft plan but the government reneged, promising no sanctuary zones where fish can regenerate.



## YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

I worked with you to oppose overdevelopment.

We got a smaller marina at Elizabeth Bay with better harbour access, and the three-storey "luxury retail" glass building adjacent to the 1850's Campbell Stores at The Rocks and the Kings Cross Bourbon residential redevelopment were withdrawn.

I strongly opposed relocation of the Crown casino/hotel/residential tower to South Barangaroo's only waterfront public recreation park. Ironically Crown is now complaining adjacent towers will block its views. I opposed high rise proposals in Darling Harbour at the Harbourside, Cockle Bay and the IMAX, and the Star Casino's waterfront residential tower. Our objections will hopefully see the charter boat storage and waste facility at Bank Street withdrawn. I opposed 24-hour shipping, storage and construction facility proposals at Glebe Island.

I pushed for changes to the Sydney Modern to reduce loss of public green space. My submissions opposed non-compliant overdevelopment of Sydney Metro stations and I submitted petitions to protect hundreds of homes from losing their winter sun.



## THE HOUSING CRISIS

Housing costs in Sydney are causing housing stress and homelessness.

I called on the government to treat homelessness as a state emergency and pushed for a 15 per cent social and affordable housing target in redevelopment projects and for more social housing. Unfortunately the government focussed on expanding reasons to evict tenants to reduce its 60,000 social housing waiting list.

The complete selloff of social housing in Millers Point dismantled a strong and supportive community and caused significant distress to already vulnerable people. With a delegation of tenants we convinced the former housing minister to retain 28 social housing homes.

## TRANSPORT ALTERNATIVES

Fines for bicycle offences like not wearing a helmet more than quadrupled while building safe bike lanes stalled. I reminded Parliament that riding a bike is clean and healthy and the government withdrew plans to force cyclists to carry ID. The Sydney Harbour Bridge cycleway will be fixed and a new separated lane at Bondi Junction is promised but we are far from meeting cycling targets.

I opposed the ever expanding road projects like the disastrous WestConnex which will bleed into Moore Park and across the harbour.

After years of lobbying, Edgecliff station is being upgraded with much needed lift access.

## A VIBRANT CITY

The government neglected the late night economy but we got a half hour reprieve from the lockouts and cessation of service for live music and entertainment venues. More individual members of parliament now agree with my consistent position to remove the lockouts – even the Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party which supported the laws in 2014, now have a bill. More needs to be done to revive opportunities for emerging artists and restore Sydney's reputation as an attractive place at night.



# Campaigns & People

## RENTING

Good tenancy reforms were achieved including to help victims escaping domestic violence get out of a lease and to improve the living conditions of rental homes. I worked with the opposition and cross benchers to try to make no-grounds evictions unlawful so that landlords can't evict tenants as retribution for pursuing their rights. I repeatedly asked the minister to protect renters who have an informal agreement with another tenant but are not covered by a lease as they can be evicted without notice, refused bond for no reason and can't access the tribunal.

## THE VOICELESS

There is rarely good news for animals but I fought against cruel laws. I supported the government when it closed the systemically and irreparably cruel greyhound racing industry and opposed the subsequent backflip followed by new subsidies. I asked the NSW Government to ban caged egg farming as part of the national poultry review, which is yet to be finalised. With Animal Justice Party MLC Mark Pearson, we are trying to ban animals in circuses, which forces animals to travel, live in cages and undergo harsh training regimes.

## THE ARTS

We saved the National Art School from amalgamation into the university system with its site at Old Darlinghurst Gaol sold off for redevelopment. Over 14,000 signed my petition and hundreds came to watch debate. The school's independence and location are now secure.

Closing the Powerhouse to sell off the site in the guise of providing cultural space to Western Sydney was exposed as a poorly thought-through, expensive and culturally destructive election announcement. We opposed plans with over 10,000 signing my petition and the government committed to a cultural presence on the site, though we still don't know its future.

## DYING WITH DIGNITY

Most people want access to a painless death if they become terminally ill and palliative care cannot alleviate all suffering. With members from the Nationals, Labor, the Greens and the Liberals, I introduced one of the most robust bills to help people who are terminally ill and experiencing significant pain and suffering get assistance to speed up their death at the end of their life. The bill lost in the Legislative Council by one vote and we're committed to reintroducing it in the next Parliament.

## HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS

Work is progressing on the new Cleveland Street high school. I worked with local parents and councillors to campaign for a public high school in the east where there are few options outside expensive, single sex, selective, religious private schools. We got a commitment from the opposition but the government referred to challenges in response to my question in parliament.

## HARM MINIMISATION

As a member of the NSW Cross Party Harm Minimisation Roundtable, I pushed for evidence based drug policies that keep people safe. We held a summit at Parliament where medical and legal stakeholders described how the current law and order approach stops problem users getting help and convicts otherwise law abiding citizens. I supported pill testing, opposed new drug offences and called for medicinal cannabis laws that guarantee sick people can access treatment.



Accepting petitions for no fault evictions



Greyhound backflip - NSW politics at its worst



Rallying for the NAS. Photo by Peter Morgan



Working with colleagues for harm minimisation

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