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INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR SYDNEY

sydney news

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Stadium creep on Moore Park

The new football stadium will be bigger and more imposing, host more events and move closer to Kippax Lake, putting Moore Park's amenity and environment at risk.

Amid pushes to permanently close Driver Avenue to traffic to annex the land, a planned "grand entrance" on Driver Avenue could make Moore Park a mere extension of sporting ground lands. Noise and crowds will make Moore Park unpleasant for recreation, and grasslands could end up covered in paved pathways.

The sporting trust is doing little to stop people driving to the new stadium even though light rail will be operating when it opens and the Moore Park Master Plan 2040 aims to remove on-grass parking.

The Entertainment Quarter which is part of Moore Park is also at risk of stadium creep and no-one knows what deals are being done behind closed doors.

My submission on the detailed design called for the new stadium to be scaled back with conditions set to protect Moore Park.

Protecting Moore Park must be a priority for the government's new public spaces minister. I was pleased that during debate on my motion in Parliament on Moore Park, the government said car parking would be removed and new funds invested. Both the government and opposition said they will support my motion when it comes to a vote.

Alex Greenwich MP
Member for Sydney

THANK YOU SYDNEY!

Thank you for your support at the 23 March election and keeping the inner city independent. There's a lot of work to be done especially on environment, climate change, homelessness, housing, equality, social justice and animal welfare. I will continue to update you on my work.

SHORT TERM LETTING UPDATE

The government is working on the details for its short term letting rules before they come into force. We are waiting for a code of conduct to stop party houses, model by-laws to help apartments ban commercial hosts and planning instruments for the 180-day rule. The new minister is considering my request for a registration system.

FINDING SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS

I accepted a position on the Premier's Council on Homelessness where I will work with support services and the government to cut homelessness. Large numbers of people are in crisis accommodation and boarding houses or live on the street in the inner city. I hope the council will be an effective platform for change.

...AND TAKING ACTION

I used my first question in Parliament to ask the government how it will achieve its target to halve homelessness rates by 2025. The minister said planning would cover prevention, support and pathways to long term housing. The government also agreed to my request to increase outreach to rough sleepers and fast track temporary accommodation in winter.



Stadium build moves closer to Moore Park



Working with locals to end homelessness

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FROM PARLIAMENT

STRATA NEEDS OVERSIGHT

Fair Trading doesn't have the resources or powers to enforce strata law and dispute resolution can be expensive, slow and ineffective. Some buildings have corrupt management or are so dysfunctional they can't get urgent maintenance works done. The government must acknowledge that mediation and tribunal action often fail to get outcomes. In Parliament I called for a commissioner for strata living to provide oversight and enforcement of strata laws, with audit powers to review serious cases. The new Building Commissioner could take on this role and inquire into other challenges like proxy farming and sustainability.

NEW APPROACH TO GAOL NEEDED

Managing inmate behaviour through privileges can have lifelong impacts on prisoners and their families. People with intellectual disabilities are overrepresented and more likely to breach rules and lose privileges, without any behavioural benefits. Some correctional centres withdraw family visits as punishment, which is particularly destructive for juvenile inmates and the children of prisoners, contributing to risks of children ending up in state care or offending in the future.

The courts recently ruled that if an inmate's behaviour is punished through privilege withdrawal, it cannot be punished further, even if the behaviour was also a criminal offence. In Parliament, the government introduced new laws to ensure the privilege withdrawal system can operate without interfering with criminal proceedings and during debate I called for a review of the whole system to protect vulnerable inmates and families.

AGEING AND DISABILITY COMMISSIONER

A new Ageing and Disability Commissioner will investigate abuse, neglect and exploitation of adults receiving support and care from family members and carers at home. Gaps in oversight have been widely identified with calls for a new body to provide safeguards. The commissioner will educate the community to recognise abuse, as often it is overlooked and considered a private matter.

During debate on the bill, I welcomed this positive move in the protection of our most vulnerable and called for further reforms including to wills, enduring powers of attorney and guardianship documents.



The upward development race has serious cracks appearing

DEFECTS FIX LONG OVERDUE

Media attention on evacuated apartment buildings due to structural integrity concerns only scratches the surface of a major crisis that has plagued Sydney for over a decade. Yet in this time we have seen safeguards for owners eroded, including the dismantling of home warranty insurance and statutory warranties. In Parliament I asked questions about promised reforms and the government has now released draft plans. But far reaching reforms are needed and I asked the minister to ensure the new Building Commissioner is independent and has powers and resources to establish a new regime that restores confidence in apartment living.

SAVING MUSIC FESTIVALS

Music festivals are vital to Sydney's culture and economy, but new excessive, unworkable and unclear conditions for organisers are causing many to leave NSW. Running costs have escalated including user pays police even though experts agree that a large police presence encourages risky drug taking. The process for determining which festivals are deemed high-risk lacks transparency.

Action is needed to address drug related deaths at music festivals, but making them unviable is not the answer. In Parliament, I asked the government to work with industry, bringing in health, police, and Liquor and Gaming to create a safe and effective framework. I asked for more harm minimisation officers and accreditation of festival medical providers and continue to call for pill testing. An upper house inquiry will look at festival regulation further.



Rallying for festivals with Jess and Jess



Talking about the new Ageing and Disability Commissioner with Minister Ward



NSW Independents take action on climate change

COAL TRANSITION

I was elected chair of the environment and planning committee, which will recommend ways to make the state more sustainable. We will inquire into how to transition NSW away from coal. With coal production communities vulnerable to disruption from reductions in global thermal coal demand as countries convert energy supply to renewables, the inquiry will look at diversifying their economies. A coal transition authority to support new job opportunities like renewables, tourism, agriculture and green chemical industries in coal dependent communities is a joint policy of the three NSW independents.

BETTER NIGHT LIFE PROSPECTS

I was elected Deputy Chair of the Parliament's Joint Select Committee on Sydney's Night Time Economy. We are looking at how to restore Sydney's vibrancy at night while protecting health and safety. The lockout laws have crippled the inner city at night, closing businesses and reducing opportunities for artists and for socialising. I don't support blanket lockouts on all venues; we can protect safety by ensuring precincts don't get saturated with 24-hour premises (as previously occurred in Kings Cross), penalising bad management and ensuring adequate late night transport. The committee will make recommendations to government in September.

GLEBE ISLAND PROTECTIONS

With Balmain MP Jamie Parker, I asked the new planning minister to 'call in' the multi-user storage and distribution facility for bulk construction materials, including port facilities at Glebe Island so that his department can set conditions to protect residents from ship noise, night lights, dust and truck movements. The project is heavily industrial and will operate 24 hours, seven days a week. The NSW Port Authority is proposing, assessing and determining the project, with no independent oversight.

Successive state government policies have transformed the region into a densely populated residential area and it is unfair to suddenly change policy and convert it back to heavy industry.

SCEGGS DEVELOPMENT

SCEGGS Darlinghurst is an important education institution which needs to modernise its buildings and facilities. Unfortunately its proposed concept plan would demolish the 1928 heritage listed Wilkinson House on Forbes Street and I made a submission to argue for the retention and adaptive renovation of the building instead. I also asked for a new traffic plan that would see St Peter's Street reopened permanently and for a reduction in bulk and scale of the seven-storey Multipurpose Building to prevent overshadowing of Thomson Street homes.

WHITE CITY NEW PLAN FAULTS

White City must provide Paddington with recreation opportunities and while plans for a new tennis and sports recreation club provide great potential, I am concerned heritage, local amenity and safety are being compromised. My submissions to the latest modification opposed relocation of buildings closer to boundaries with homes and the school, the increase in car parking spaces and additional development in the valley floor, disrupting historic views to Rushcutters Bay. I raised concerns about loss of trees and vegetation, a new driveway on Glenmore Road and impacts on Sydney Grammar students during construction. I've called for public access to Rushcutters Creek and pedestrian links between Alma Street and New South Head Road.

follow my
work at



A night out with the night time economy committee



Glebe Island planned 24x7 facility needs review



Time to reopen St Peter's Street

Campaigns & People

TWO DECADES OF LOU'S PLACE

Lou's Place provides a safe space for vulnerable women while they receive case management, learn skills and engage in activities. The refuge was started two decades ago by four friends who wanted to help women less fortunate than them. In Parliament I recognised 20 years of service and hope. I also took the Premier and the Minister for Family and Community Services to learn about homelessness from the women in crisis who visit.



Lou's Place women meet the Premier

HIGH SCHOOL CATCHMENT TOO NARROW

Following concerns from the Ultimo Public School P&C, I asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning to again review the catchment for the new Inner City High School. The boundaries were extended to include nearby Redfern students but still exclude students living close to the school in Haymarket, Ultimo and Pyrmont.



National Art School action wins

NATIONAL ART SCHOOL WIN

The National Art School is officially saved! A 45-year lease for the school to remain at the old Darlinghurst Gaol site was signed by Minister Harwin and the school has now been recognised as a State Significant Organisation to protect it into the future. Three years ago we were campaigning to save the school from being subsumed into the university system with the site sold for development. Thank you to everyone – students, alumni, staff, artists and local residents – who signed my petition, and attended rallies and debates in Parliament.



No swimming water for farmed ducks
(Photo courtesy Animal Liberation)

DUCKS NEED WATER

I am working with Animal Liberation to get swimming water mandated on duck farms. Water is vital to alleviate pressure on ducks' legs and to allow them to clean themselves. When denied water, ducks suffer extensively and develop lameness and disease. Ducks also require copious amounts of water while they eat but most farmed ducks can't get to the small nipple drinkers provided because sheds are overcrowded and their legs can't hold the weight of their selectively bred bodies. Sign our petition at alexgreenwich.com/petitions.

DARLINGHURST RESIDENTS BUILD COMMUNITY

In Parliament I congratulated residents of 254 Crown Street Darlinghurst for community building and environmental action. They set up a Return and Earn collection point in their building to reduce waste, raising over \$500 in just a few months for their community room and garden. The garden provides veggies, flowers, herbs and a meeting place for residents living alone.



Return and Earn in Darlinghurst

EQUALITY GREEN RECOGNISED

Following my proposal, the park where many of us gathered to celebrate the results of the marriage equality postal survey in 2017 has officially been named Equality Green. It has strong emotional memories for many and I am pleased this history has been recognised. We must continue to push for full equality and help our international LGBTIQ counterparts who still suffer persecution. Congratulations to Taiwan on its recent win! I'm proud to also support Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras' bid for WorldPride in 2023.



Park rename celebrates marriage equality