

## Better Buildings for Sydney

Protections for apartment owners were significantly strengthened with the passage of vital reforms.

The Building Commissioner was given powers to inspect buildings during and up to six years after construction, issue orders to stop work or fix defects, and withhold occupation certificates. A new rating tool flagging high-risk developers such as those who dissolve companies to avoid liability will help the commissioner prioritise inspections.

My amendment to ensure owners can refuse to let the same developer back to fix defects passed unanimously ensuring owners won't be penalised if they don't let an intimidating or negligent developer back into their homes.

The upper house finally passed the new system to register and accredit apartment designers and practitioners, and ensure their work complies with standards. The bill was strengthened with a new registration process for engineers, in line with the findings of the Parliamentary inquiry I chaired. My amendments that passed last year to improve accountability, transparency and coverage were kept intact, as were vital retrospective statutory rights for owners to sue for negligence - a reform I pushed for.

I worked with Minister Anderson (pictured) to achieve these improvements and while more work is needed, this is a massive leap in long overdue safeguards.



**Alex Greenwich MP**  
Member for Sydney

### HOMELESSNESS ACTION

Over 1,200 rough sleepers will be housed with new wrap-around support programs. The need to get people off the street during the pandemic provides an opportunity to ensure everyone has a safe and secure home. I will continue to work with the family and community services minister, Gareth Ward and Lord Mayor Clover Moore to get homes for people in need.

### INDIGENOUS JUSTICE GAP

There is a long way to go to close the justice gap. I was disturbed by videos of police force against Indigenous Australians and asked for a full investigation into the Surry Hills incidents and LECC to review policing practices. I will continue to push for change in Parliament.

### SUPPORTING SYDNEY'S BUSINESSES

I have connected a number of businesses with information about grants from the state government, City of Sydney and Woollahra Council. It is good to see all levels of government working together to kick-start the economy. Information: **Service NSW 13 77 88.**

### DEFENDING ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

I have been appointed to the joint select committee into "religious freedoms" and anti-discrimination laws. While NSW legislation needs improvement, the terms of reference include Mark Latham MLC's bill to remove protections for marginalised and minority groups. I will use my position to push for fairness for LGBTQIA+ communities, women and people with disability.



Working with the Lord Mayor and Minister Ward to help rough sleepers



Supporting small businesses with Cr Harriet Price

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## FROM PARLIAMENT

### STOPPING CSG DESTRUCTION

I supported independent Justin Field's bill for a moratorium on coal seam gas mining. CSG is an environmentally risky industrial activity that destroys native forests, water sources and agricultural land. The practice is devastating the Pilliga State Forest where a further 850 new coal seam gas wells are planned.

During debate I argued that excessive mining growth puts coal regions at risk of economic shock from shrinking global coal demand. Renewable energy, technology, manufacturing, agriculture and sustainable chemicals provide better opportunities for jobs growth.

### FORESTRY MORATORIUM

Biodiversity got a rare win with the government overturning plans to expand logging operations into previously protected old growth forests – something I opposed in my first statement in Parliament this year. But I am concerned logging is continuing in state forests that provide vital habitat to species impacted by the fires. Over a billion animals and hundreds of billions of insects died this bushfire season and more are at risk from their now reduced, fragmented and isolated habitat. With independent MP for Lake Macquarie Greg Piper, I called for a moratorium on native state forest logging and an urgent independent comprehensive scientific assessment of the entire landscape, threatened species and ecological communities.

### CLEARING ESCALATES

In 2016 I opposed laws that eroded the rules for clearing native bush on private land arguing that New South Wales risked the tenfold escalation in deforestation that occurred in Queensland following similar laws. The Natural Resources Commission recent damning report on the laws identifies massive surges in both legal and illegal clearing in this state due to inadequate protections and poor enforcement. My questions in Parliament called for an overhaul of provisions to protect threatened species, most of which have lost habitat from fires.



Social distancing in the Legislative Assembly

## PARLIAMENT DURING COVID-19

Parliament has returned to regular sittings with new rules to ensure social distancing. The building remains closed to the public but sessions continue to be livestreamed on the internet.

During the height of the lockdown, emergency health and economic legislation covering around 40 significant changes across multiple portfolios were passed in one omnibus bill. Some provisions were clearly necessary like laws to help collect data on new health trends, but others were undemocratic like laws to increase the government's power over the budget and elected councils. I called for greater transparency and accountability during debate.

Weeks of negotiating and raising your case studies helped get big tenancy wins, including fairer fees for tenants who need to break their lease. I also got Fair Trading to make the information on its website for tenants and landlords clearer. Unfortunately no-grounds evictions continue to be available during the pandemic; any tenant who cannot pay full rent who is evicted or threatened with eviction should contact me so I can raise it with the minister.

I welcomed new strata laws to enable electronic voting in all schemes and transfers between funds – changes I called for early on in the pandemic.

## WILDLIFE TRADE RISKS

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed humans' dangerous relationship with animals, from the wildlife trade to habitat destruction. Many constituents raised the need to do more to prevent cruel underground wildlife trafficking, which is illegal under Commonwealth law. In Parliament I asked the environment minister for state government action to protect our native animals from being traded for their skins or as exotic pets.



Nature Conservation Council Zoom with MPs



Standing with Greg Piper MP for a moratorium on logging native forests



## POWERHOUSE SAVED

I opposed the closure of the Powerhouse Museum since it was first proposed. Debate I initiated in Parliament through a petition signed by 10,000 people, damning upper house inquiries, ongoing community opposition and critical media attention finally saved the Ultimo museum. The collection will stay and Parramatta will still get a new Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences – an approach we always argued was the best way forward. Thank you to the passionate community campaigners who never gave up.

## REVITALISING MOORE PARK NORTH

With crowds temporarily gone from the stadiums and light rail operating, it is now time to implement the Moore Park Master Plan 2040 objective to remove event car parking from the grasslands. Moore Park north has the potential to be a thriving recreation space with the master plan identifying it for a “village green” with play equipment, barbeques and walking trails; taking cars off this park should be a first step. During the pandemic, locals have been using Moore Park north more than ever for picnics, walking and jogging because the grass has thrived without cars. I asked to meet with the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to discuss a way forward for Moore Park north.

## CBD OVERDEVELOPMENT

My submission opposed the detailed design for the Pitt Street South over-station residential tower. The plans do not comply with previous conditions of consent to reduce overshadowing in neighbouring homes and fail to achieve ecological sustainable development or amenity for its own future residents. It is shameful that the much needed Sydney metro project is being used to overdevelop the city and erode residential amenity.

## PYRMONT PLANNING

The government promised to harmonise Pyrmont planning processes through a new Pyrmont Place Strategy but it will exclude the existing Sydney Fish Market site where massive towers of up to 45 storeys have been earmarked along the waterfront. If the redevelopment proceeds in silo from the strategy, it will be impossible to protect the community from impacts like traffic and inadequate social infrastructure or make meaningful comments on the redevelopment. In Parliament I called for a coordinated approach to all planning in the Pyrmont peninsula.

## DARLINGHURST HERITAGE WIN

The Independent Planning Commission approved the SCEGGS concept plan to expand facilities, but the school will not be allowed to demolish the heritage Wilkinson House. Heritage loss was a key community concern raised during exhibition including in my submission and I congratulate the community on a welcome outcome.

## RMS UNUSED LANDS

I share community concern about the poor state of RMS land above the Cross City Tunnel in William Street and adjacent to the Eastern Distribution at Palmer Street and Egan Place. Leaving these sites empty is wasteful and graffiti and weeds make them neighbourhood eyesores. Activation is long overdue and I've raised proposals for much needed open space, bicycle infrastructure, homeless support services or creative uses. I asked the minister to set up a reference group to recommend interim and long term uses of this land.



@alexgreenwich



Our harbour deserves high quality planning



Opportunity to revitalise Moore Park with COVID pause



Neglected RMS William Street site

# Campaigns & People

## SYDNEY CITY GETS EVEN GREENER

The City of Sydney Council is now powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity, which will cut greenhouse gas emissions, help the renewable energy sector grow, create new green jobs and reduce energy costs. This great milestone shows what can be achieved with real leadership on climate change and in Parliament I congratulated the council and Lord Mayor Clover Moore.



100% renewable energy for City of Sydney Council

## NEW ANIMAL COALITION

I am proud to be a founding member of the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Animals group. We have members from the Animal Justice Party, The Greens, Labor and the Liberals and we will work together to increase support across the Parliament for policies that prevent cruelty and promote welfare. Progress in animal protection, particularly in industries like racing and food production, is very slow and I hope our aim to find common ground across parties will result in progress.



Parliamentary Friends of Animals

## AN ACTIVE DOMAIN

I asked the minister to fast-track a number of approved inner city cycleway network projects to help ease crowding on the public transport network without causing congestion. The government will now boost investment in walking and cycling infrastructure including essential inner city cycleways and pedestrian zones. We need permanent solutions for the temporary pop-up cycleways to support sustainable and healthy transport options.



Pop-up cycleways part of COVID recovery

## LATE NIGHT UPDATE

The planned removal of the liquor freeze in the CBD and Kings Cross on 1 December will help revitalise the night time economy as we move out of lockdown. The freeze on new and varied pub and club licences helped stop unsustainable growth of venues in inner city hotspots, but Sydney's nightlife has been hit hard by the pandemic and lockouts. I support a new approach based on risk and cumulative impact assessments to ensure the city remains a safe, culturally and socially exciting place to live and visit.



WorldPride 2023 key to economic recovery

## SCOTT JOHNSON JUSTICE

After many decades of pursuing justice over the death of Scott Johnson, his family received a major breakthrough with an arrest. I commend his brother Steve Johnson who has never given up seeking justice and used his own resources to get police and Coroner action. Police should protect everyone, and this case has helped galvanise action to address homophobia in the justice system. Thank you to all those who have pursued this over the years.



Justice finally begins for gay hate victims