

Community News

SURRY HILLS ENMORE NEWTOWN

PETERSHAM MARRICKVILLE EVELEIGH

REDFERN STANMORE ERSKINEVILLE

CHIPPENDALE DARLINGTON CAMPERDOWN

JENNY LEONG MP

MEMBER FOR NEWTOWN

November 2015

Dear Neighbour,

I am so pleased to be writing to you in our first regular community news – just one of the ways that we can keep connected about what’s happening in our neighbourhoods and what I’ve been doing as your local representative.

So much has happened in the six months since I became the Member for Newtown – and there is a lot more on the horizon.

One of the biggest challenges we face is how we ensure we keep our city liveable. That means tackling housing affordability and security, ensuring ‘urban renewal’ means more than just profits for big developers, and making sure we see investment in active, public transport solutions that work for the community – NOT WestConnex!

All of these things contribute to the ‘vibe’ of our area – and are part of protecting the diversity and creativity of communities.

Every day we are contacted by people who have ideas for how we can improve our local area, our state and our world. Every day we are working to support those who are at risk, those who are struggling as well as those who are advancing their vision to make things better.

As I have said many times before, my role representing you – whether it be in parliament, in the community or on the streets – is only as powerful as the active and engaged community that stands with me.

I hope you enjoy the first community news – I hope you find something in here to get active on or connect with – and I hope you will help us keep in touch by subscribing to our email updates at jennyleong.org/sign_up

Cheers,

Jenny Leong MP
Member for Newtown



WE ♥ PUBLIC EDUCATION

IT'S UNETHICAL TO DECEIVE PARENTS - THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES TO SCRIPTURE

Changes were recently made by the Baird Government to remove the options of ethics classes on school enrolment forms, even though ethics classes are available. We are concerned about the undue influence Fred Nile is having on our education system.

We are encouraging parents to take matters into their own hands and use last year's enrolment forms instead. If you need a copy contact us and we'll send you one.

WE GIVE A GONSKI

The Greens fully support the Gonski-recommended six years of funding for schools. We know that demand for public school places in the inner city and inner west continues to grow – we will continue to work with parents to ensure the Minister for Education responds to our community's needs.



Jenny joined the P&C at a Newtown Public School forum for National Gonski Week.

To get in touch with Jenny email jenny.leong@parliament.nsw.gov.au or call 9517 2800

RECOGNISING OUR COMMUNITY

Over the past months in Parliament Jenny has drawn the attention of the House to many of the community groups and organisations who are working in the local area.

If you know of an organisation, group or individual that should be recognised for their good work in the community please get in touch.

GROUPS RECOGNISED IN PARLIAMENT:

- The WestConnex Action Group
- The Asian Australian Alliance Women's Forum, members of the Nepalese community and BloodWood in Newtown (for their fundraising following the earthquakes in Nepal)
- The NSW Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby in conjunction with the Star Observer, Out for Australia, Transgender Victoria and Organisation Intersex International Australia (for their work on the Australian LGBTI University Guide)
- The Asylum Seekers Centre
- Wear it Purple Day, the Safe Schools Coalition and the makers of the Gayby Baby documentary
- The NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, the Inner City NAIDOC Community Committee, the National Centre for Indigenous Excellence and Darlington Public School (for their NAIDOC celebrations)
- The Welcome Dinner Project
- Humans of Newtown and the King Street Crawl
- ACON and the LGBTI Community Honour Awards winners
- The Northcott Community Centre, Ability Links NSW, the Compeer program, the "Don't Lose Your Marbles" challenge, Counterpoint Community Services and the Redfern and Waterloo Neighbourhood Advisory Boards (for their Mental Health Month Activities)
- Redfern Legal Centre
- Stop CSG Sydney

WEAR IT PURPLE DAY

"I recognise the invaluable contribution that the organisers and participants of Wear it Purple Day, the Safe Schools Coalition and the makers of the Gayby Baby documentary make to ensure that inclusiveness, diversity and acceptance are a part of our schools and education system and therefore part of our community."

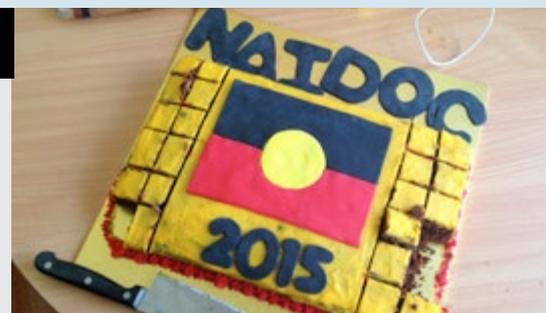


ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL

"I draw the attention of the House to the work of the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW. Established in 1975, the council is the peak body for culturally and linguistically diverse communities in New South Wales."

NAIDOC 2015

"I draw the attention of the Parliament to the fantastic National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee [NAIDOC] celebrations that were held in the Newton electorate to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples."



MENTAL HEALTH MONTH AT NORTHCOTT

"I commend the work of Douglas Holmes for putting on another fantastic 'Don't Lose Your Marbles' challenge and congratulate all teams that participated in the challenge."

LIVEABLE SYDNEY

URBAN GROWTH

With two major Urban Growth projects planned for our electorate, we are undergoing huge changes and facing many development pressures. While it's important to plan for the future of Sydney, many of these state government projects can be imposed without proper consultation. We need integrated planning for transport infrastructure, housing infrastructure and community infrastructure. We must stay vigilant and make sure that sustainability, affordability and the needs of residents are given priority in planning decisions.

Central to Eveleigh Urban Transformation & Transport Program

- Encompasses around 80ha of land around the rail corridor from Central to Macdonaldtown and Erskineville.
- Includes one of the biggest remaining pockets of open space in our densely built-up inner city.

The sell-off of the publically owned Australian Technology Park is a serious threat to this site of our industrial heritage, innovation, creativity and community. We need to maintain our living heritage, public access and open space along the corridor.

Have your say at www.centraltoeveleigh.com.au



ALICE ST RESIDENTS GETTING ACTIVE

Residents on Alice Street, Newtown have been flexing their muscle and organising in their neighbourhood – and they have been getting results.

The Alice St pedestrian crossing had its hours of supervision cut by the state government. The terrible result was that a young girl was hit by a car. This irresponsible decision has been reversed, and the road crossing is being supervised again to keep our school kids safe.

Residents on Alice St have also been standing up to a property developer who is trying to build a 7 storey apartment by overriding community concerns, council regulations and environmental controls. Rejected by council, it is now in the Land and Environment Court where it can be approved by state government planning laws that favour developer interests. We're still awaiting the final outcome, but will continue battling for the interests of our community over developer profits.



SAVING THE ALEX

Thanks to the work of local residents, including the Alexandria Residents' Action Group, plans to demolish the iconic Alexandria Hotel and build an apartment block have been disrupted. Following action taken by the City of Sydney the pub is on track to be heritage listed. Its future (and that of the hundreds of Swannies fans who flock there on match day) is looking hopeful.

Parramatta Road Urban Transformation Program

- Extends along the Parramatta Rd corridor from the CBD to the City of Parramatta.

There are concerns that the project will bring increased traffic to local side-streets, take away green space, and allow high-density, multi-level apartment blocks that overshadow existing communities.

Residents need assurances that the government is taking an integrated approach to transport and recognise the need for more investment in public education, public hospitals, and community and public services if housing density is increased. Affordable housing is key.

Have your say at www.newparramattard.com.au

MOORE PARK

The Centennial and Moore Park Trust is inviting feedback on a long term plan for the area. Twenty million visitors use these much loved parklands each year for exercise, recreation and relaxation. Developers have long had their eye on this wonderful open space, for car parking, new sports stadiums, and structures built on the parklands.

Green space in our city is a valuable asset, not empty space up for grabs for developers.

Have your say at www.centennialparklands.com.au

NEWTOWN VIBE

After the Baird government lock-out laws were imposed on venues throughout the CBD and Kings Cross last year, we saw an influx of additional late-night visitors in Newtown. That brought more people to our local area and a shift in the 'vibe' that makes Newtown such a unique part of Sydney.

"Lockouts don't stop alcohol-fuelled anti-social behaviour and violence. It's not like Cinderella: sexist, transphobic and racist dickheads don't magically appear after 3am. Unfortunately, they can surface at any time."

SMH August 4th, 2015.

I've been working alongside residents, local businesses, licensees, police and the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre to make sure that Newtown remains a diverse, inclusive, vibrant and safe community while our bars and venues stay open.

STANDING WITH THE COMMUNITY



At the Sydney Network for Democracy in China rally in Belmore Park.



Opening of 'The Point Is' art exhibition in support of the Millers Point public housing community.



At the Fort Street High School 'Raise Youth Mentors' graduation ceremony.



Speaking at the 'On The Floor' panel on the future of Sydney's nightlife.

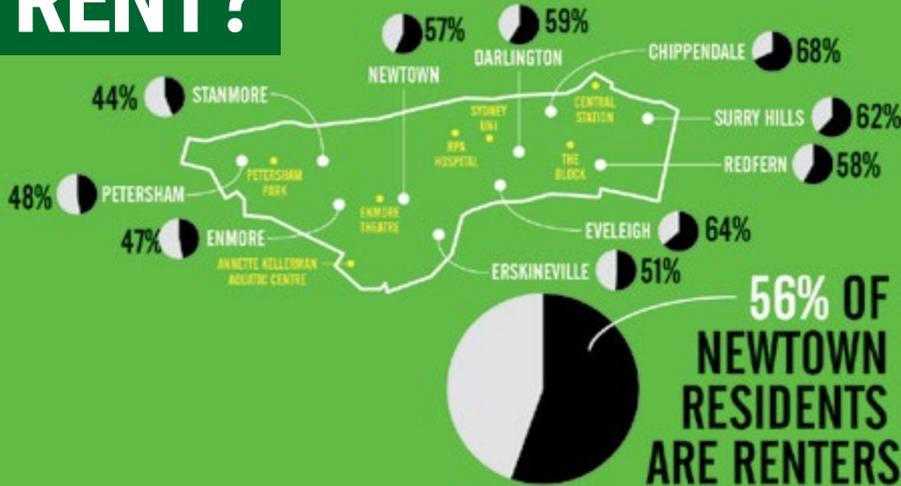


Abortion law reform launch with Greens MPs Mehreen Faruqi, Larissa Waters, Lee Rhiannon and Jamie Parker.



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DO YOU RENT?



WE HAVE A CHANCE TO GET A BETTER DEAL FOR RENTERS

In the coming months the NSW Government will begin a review of the Residential Tenancies Act. We need to make sure the voices of renters are heard, loud and strong.

Please take the time to fill out our renters' survey:
www.jennyleong.org/renters_survey
 or call our office on 9517 2800 to get a survey in the mail.

TRANSPORT UPDATE

The latest with WestConnex

The public release of the business case for this \$15.4 billion tollway has been delayed again – but that hasn't stopped them signing billions of dollars in contracts.

Alarming, the company producing the M4East Environmental Impact Statement – AECOM – has commercial interests in the construction of the project, as well as a track record of inaccurate modelling for other infrastructure projects.

WestConnex is now run by the Sydney Motorway Corporation, a private company not subject to Freedom of Information requests.

Wow, what a response from the community!

Over 10,000 signatures on the Stop WestConnex petition – enough for a debate on the floor of Parliament. Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers, concerned residents and local businesses.

We also know that thousands of residents made submissions to comment on the M4 East Environmental Impact Statement released by WestConnex. This flood of submissions pointed out that WestConnex will dump gridlocked traffic onto local streets, destroy remnant bushland, displace people from their homes and bulldoze many heritage listed buildings, increase carbon emissions and air pollution, and by their own admission, WestConnex's own tunnel will be full in 15 years' time. In such huge numbers, submissions from the community are powerful.

CBD and South East Light Rail

Construction is now underway for the new light rail – and as those who catch buses into the city know, there have been a lot of changes to routes and there will be a lot more to come. Surry Hills residents will have noticed that preliminary work is beginning around Devonshire St in preparation for construction in August 2016. If you have urgent enquiries or complaints about these works, contact the **24 Hour Construction Response Line on 1800 775 465.**

A new station and wonderful open space at Olivia Gardens?

We know many of you shared our view that the light rail would be better down Oxford St – but now that it is set for Devonshire St let's make sure the light rail improves public transport and access to green space for local residents. We've heard the calls from locals who want another station at the top of Devonshire St. Let us know your thoughts at www.jennyleong.org/lightrail



With members of the Save Newtown Stop WestConnex group.



Stage at the Mardi Gras Sync Duels fundraiser.



Recognising the work of Newtown Neighbourhood Centre volunteers.



At the NSW Human Rights Awards with winner Rev Bill Crews.



Supporting the Cancer Council's Daffodil Day.

INVITE JENNY TO YOUR NEXT EVENT

newtown@parliament.nsw.gov.au
 (02) 9517 2800

REPRESENTING YOU

Photo by Jarosław L. Gąsiorek

“It is our responsibility as legislators and public representatives to dismantle institutions of discrimination wherever we find them. Therefore, we must remove the exemptions in the Anti-Discrimination Act in New South Wales. The law too often trails behind public opinion.”

— speech on the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia.



Launching the *Drug Dog Repeal Bill (2015)* with DJ Paul Mac, Dan from Art Vs Science and Greens MP David Shoebridge.

“The Greens strongly believe that instead of selling public housing assets we should invest in them. We must recognise people’s right to access safe, secure and affordable housing.”

— speech in Parliament on housing affordability.

“We know that some Syrians are being held in mandatory detention at Villawood, less than an hour’s train ride away from this House. We must remember that this is not a problem just happening overseas and elsewhere.”

— speech in Parliament in support of Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

IN PARLIAMENT

- Made Inaugural speech to a packed public gallery
- Raised issues of concern for the Newtown Electorate
- Spoke in support of International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia
- Stood up for Local Councils
- Highlighted climate change on World Environment Day
- Put renters’ rights on the agenda
- Expressed community concerns with the Parramatta Road Urban Renewal Project
- Called for accessible train stations
- Contributed to debate in support of Marriage Equality
- Participated in a tribute to Adam Goodes
- Introduced a motion and led debate to suspend work on WestConnex
- Raised concerns about the future of Moore Park
- Spoke in support of Primary School ethics classes
- Joined the petition debate to protect koalas in Northern NSW
- Called for the protection of refugees in Australia and offshore
- Spoke to save the Newcastle Railway line
- Spoke out against the unfair eviction of Public Housing tenants
- Highlighted the urgent issue of housing affordability
- Stood up against unfair Strata laws that allow schemes to be sold with support of just 75% of owners
- Took a stand against increased police powers and unnecessary changes to bail laws

IN THE COMMUNITY & ON THE STREETS

- Coloured Diggers ANZAC Day memorial service, Redfern
- LGBTI University Guide launch, Human Rights Commission
- Politics in the Pub on WestConnex, Glebe
- Unveiling of the Beijing Democracy Statue on the anniversary of Tiananmen Square, Belmore Park
- Australian Law Students Associations Marriage Equality debate, USYD
- Redfern and Waterloo Volunteer Awards, Erskineville Bowling Club
- National Safe Schools Symposium, University of Sydney
- WestConnex Independence Day Rally, Goddard Park Concord
- One: Sydney art auction fundraiser for the Asylum Seeker Centre, Create or Die Gallery Marrickville
- Politics in the Pub on Marriage Equality, Goulburn
- Keep Left 2015 conference, University of Sydney
- Inner West Volunteer Awards, Burwood Library
- ACCAN panel on the NBN and community Housing, UTS
- Gayby Baby screening, NSW Parliament
- Rallies in support of asylum seekers and refugees
- ‘Piercing the Bamboo Ceiling’ Chinese Community Council of Australia conference
- On The Floor panel on The Future of Sydney’s Nightlife, Surry Hills
- Rallies in support of Marriage Equality
- Sydney University Queen Mary Building opening
- Opening of Surry Hills Festival

These are just some of the events Jenny has participated in over the past months. To keep up with our work subscribe to our regular email newsletter at jennyleong.org/sign_up

COMMUNITY SURVEY

RESULTS

We asked what matters to you the most in your community. It was great to hear from you!

THE ISSUES OUR COMMUNITY CARES ABOUT

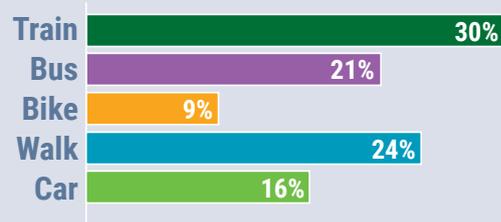


IN YOUR WORDS

"Please protect Newtown from becoming just another overpriced, inaccessible Sydney Suburb. It is a very special & unique part of Sydney."

"Keep up the good work Jenny. We must defeat Westconnex or our environment and community will be very negatively changed."

HOW WE GET TO WORK



21%

OF PEOPLE LIST PARKS AS THEIR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD.

OTHER THINGS WE LOVE

RESTAURANTS/CAFES

KING STREET

MARKETS

THE COMMUNITY VIBE

GETTING REAL RESULTS

We have a large amount of public and community housing in the electorate of Newtown. Our office has been actively engaged with local Neighbourhood Advisory Boards, various consultation committees and meetings with housing providers. We have already assisted hundreds of individuals and families with their housing needs.



Jenny joined community elders, residents and local services for the opening of Redlink by the Minister for Family and Community Services and Social Housing.

MOBILE OFFICES

To make sure we can help you with your individual matters, we are holding regular mobile offices at:

- Poet's Corner shops, Redfern: third Monday of every month, 2:30–4:30pm.
- Northcott Community Centre, Surry Hills: second Friday of every month, 10am–12noon.

We will also have mobile offices at other locations throughout the electorate – for the latest schedule check jennyleong.org/mobile_offices

NEED HELP? CONTACT US

Do you have an issue that you're not sure how to resolve? We are here to help. Get in touch with Lydia in our office to find out how we can assist.



ADDRESS 383 King St Newtown NSW 2042
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EMAIL newtown@parliament.nsw.gov.au

...FOR PUBLIC HOUSING

THE STATION ST LOUVRES MANOEUVRES

In April residents let us know they were very concerned about a situation unfolding on Station Street, Newtown. Louvres were being fitted to the windows of apartments that completely blocked out any light or view of the outside world for the public housing tenants. This work was being done without any consultation.

Our office worked with the residents, Housing NSW, the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, Marrickville Legal Centre and Marrickville Council to have these concerns heard. This month the louvres were removed from the building, restoring light to homes of many happy residents.