

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE WEST SIDE

Here's a snapshot of what our community has achieved over the past couple of years, and what I'm working on alongside local residents and groups.

CLEANING UP POLITICS

Since I was elected to Qld Parliament, I've been fighting to clean up politics.

Over the past few years I've:

- Introduced a bill to ban corporate political donations
- Successfully lobbied the government to introduce spending and donation caps
- Been the only MP to vote against new laws restricting our right to peaceful protest and dissent

NOW:

I'm calling for an end to cash for access meetings, a more transparent and effective budget estimates process, and an anti-corruption watchdog with real teeth.



Locals celebrated by updating our signs when we stopped the zipline

PROTECTING & PRESERVING MT COOT-THA

IN 2018:

The LNP Council proposed a mega-zipline development that would have permanently privatised Mt Coot-tha.

IN 2019:

My office worked alongside residents to force Council to scrap the ziplines. (Yay!)

NEXT:

Following a community meeting last year, the Greens candidate for Paddington Donna Burns and I have called on Council to close the Mt Coot-tha Quarry with a rehabilitation plan by 2025. Sign our petition online at michaelberkman.com.au/quarry

CLIMATE CHANGE

West side residents consistently tell me that climate change is their #1 issue. I've joined a huge range of people - from doctors to lawyers, faith leaders, unionists and parents - at recent strikes and rallies calling for action. We desperately need governments to get on board and stand up to fossil fuel CEOs.

I'm the only Qld MP calling for:

- Housing, retraining and a planned transition for coal workers and communities
- 100% publicly owned clean energy
- No new thermal coal, oil or gas projects including Adani

I'm working on...

IMPROVING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

After feedback from residents, I've successfully lobbied Council to:

- Fix the dangerous culvert crossing on Jesmond Road near Fig Tree Pocket SS
- Install additional signage on Eagle Tce in Auchenflower
- Lower the speed limit on Station rd

NOW:

Alongside Council candidates Donna Burns (Paddington) and Michaela Sargent (Walter Taylor), I'm calling for safe crossings at hotspots like:

- Sylvan Road near Toowong SS
- Taringa Pde & Finney Rd near Indro SS
- Carmody Rd near Ironside SS
- Fig Tree Pocket & Kenmore Rd
- Boundary & Rainworth Road roundabout
- Macgregor Tce near Latrobe Tce (Bardon)

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: AFFORDABLE, FREQUENT, RELIABLE & ACCESSIBLE

UNDERWAY:

After pressure from my office and community advocates:

- Installation of a lift at Auchenflower Train Station
- New 402 Bus services to UQ

NEXT:

I'm working on:

- Accessibility upgrades for Taringa Station
- Better buses for Fig Tree Pocket, St Lucia and Indooroopilly
- A new bus route between Bardon & Toowong
- Better school bus routes and free public transport for kids



DONNA BURNS
Candidate for Paddington
At the Rainworth Rainbow Carnival

NEW PARKS

We need more parks and public facilities to keep up with increased densification on the west side.

After consulting with local residents, I think Council should consider creating new parks and community halls on disused and vacant land like:

- The former ABC site in Toowong
- The former Drift site in Milton
- Keating Residence in Indooroopilly



Community verge gardening day, Toowong

STOPPING THE POKIES

2018 - 2019:

After a grassroots campaign against 45 new pokies at the Indro Pig N Whistle, we convinced the State government to improve transparency processes for pokies applications.

NOW:

It's not too late! After underpayment scandals the Pig N Whistle owner is selling the Indro pub. Pokies still haven't been installed, so I'm pushing to make sure the government scraps their approval.

TACKLING SCHOOL OVERCROWDING

2019:

44% of respondents to my community survey said school overcrowding is an issue for them. It's particularly bad at Toowong, Ironside and Indooroopilly.

NEXT:

I'm working on solutions with the Education Minister, including a new west side school.

MICHAELA SARGENT
Candidate for Walter Taylor
Enjoying fresh rocket from the Fig Tree Pocket SS garden

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

2018-19:

My office helped fund waste management and recycling programs for St Ignatius, Rainworth and Milton, solar panels at Ironside, a safe and quiet playground space at Toowong, and gardens at Rainworth, QASMT and Goodstart Indooroopilly. We co-hosted a community fundraising dinner with the Indooroopilly Uniting Church and coordinated a verge gardening day with the Toowong Community Garden.

NEXT:

Check the back page of this newsletter for info on how I can help your local school or community group!

NEW GREEN BRIDGES

2019:

Council finally adopted our policy to build green bridges from West End to Toowong and St Lucia to West End.

NEXT:

I'm calling for real community input on the design and placement of the bridges, and asking Council for a commitment that they won't carry motor vehicles.

FIXING QLD'S PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

2019:

I've worked alongside community groups to help oppose bad developments across Maiwar, and facilitated thousands of submissions to Council to ensure residents' voices are heard.

NOW:

I've asked the State government to overhaul the Planning Act, and proposed reforms to make developers pay their fair share. You can sign my petition at:

michaelberkman.com.au/unsustainable_development

I'm also supporting local Greens Council candidates calling for:

- Binding height limits
- Resident votes on neighbourhood plans
- No more special deals for developers



MAIWAR MATTERS

NEWS FROM YOUR STATE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

MICHAEL BERKMAN MP



My focus for 2020:



Accessible, affordable and efficient public transport



More parks and green space



Climate action



Sustainable and community-led development

Dear Neighbour,

Can you believe it's already March? It's good to be back for 2020 but, like many of us, I began the year feeling heartbroken, helpless and afraid as I watched bushfires devastate the country. My heart goes out to everyone affected, and I'm so proud of how folks came together to offer support where it was needed.

Unprecedented drought, bushfires and floods were a bracing start to what will be a huge year in Queensland. On 28 March, Brisbane residents have an opportunity to shape the direction of our city in the Council election. Then we'll be back at the polls on 31 October for the State election. This is the year to push for change at all levels of government, and to insist our representatives put people and the environment before the profits of their big corporate donors.

Speaking of, last month Parliament debated my Bill to ban political donations from for-profit companies. It was the same week the Australian Electoral Commission revealed millions of dollars in donations to Labor and the Liberal/Nationals from the gambling, property and fossil fuel industries, so I wasn't surprised that both parties voted against the ban. But I'm really proud of how far we've shifted politics since 2018, including by convincing Labor to adopt the Greens' policy to cap political donations and expenditure.

Over the past few years I've watched our community grow even more powerful and connected. In this newsletter you'll find a map taking in some of the biggest issues for the west side, what we've achieved and what I'm working on now. I've also included some "how to" guides for folks who want to get more active in our community.

My newsletters usually include a community survey about specific issues, but this time I'm asking you to get in touch about whatever's important to you. If you have feedback or questions about anything, in the electorate or statewide, shoot me an email at maiwar@parliament.qld.gov.au - I always want to hear from you.

Michael
MICHAEL BERKMAN
 Greens MP for Maiwar

PS. I only send a hard-copy newsletter like this twice per year to minimise waste. However, I post regularly on Facebook, and I send email updates every 2-3 weeks about local issues and events. If you'd like to receive these, please sign up on my website.



Despite the harrowing start to 2020, I was grateful to have some time off with my family. I even managed to fit getting married in there somewhere!

GET IN TOUCH!

Whether you'd like to connect in person or digitally, my team and I look forward to speaking with you.

 1/49 Station Road, Indooroopilly
 Open: Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

 (07) 3737 4100

 maiwar@parliament.qld.gov.au

 michaelberkman.com.au

 facebook.com/michaelberkman.greens

 Instagram: [@michael.berkman](https://www.instagram.com/michael.berkman)



GOT AN IDEA FOR LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY?

As your State MP, I'm fighting for big, systemic changes to protect our environment, like a planned transition to 100% renewables. I also regularly hear from west side locals who want to improve sustainability in our area, and I love being able to support their ideas.

In 2018 I created the Maiwarriors grant program, which helps school-age kids fund local social justice and environmental projects. Since then we've helped students with dozens of projects to reduce emissions, cut down on waste and learn sustainably. We've just opened our next round of funding, so check out michaelberkman.com.au/maiwarriors if you know a young person who could use a hand bringing their project to life!

I'm also working with Containers for Change to identify a location for a new container deposit refund point here in Maiwar. It's tricky to find a location with the right zoning, but I'm determined to keep pushing. Ideally, I'd love to see a new "reverse vending machine" facility installed in Maiwar as a first step. If you want to get updates on this, send me an email: maiwar@parliament.qld.gov.au

Later in 2020, I'll be hosting a community information session on sustainability, waste reduction and recycling. If you're interested in this, please get in touch. We're still planning, so I'd love to hear your ideas!



HOW TO: PROTECT URBAN BUSHLAND AND TREES FROM ILLEGAL CLEARING

I routinely hear from folks who are devastated at the loss of significant neighbourhood trees and local bushland. Queensland's planning system is hopelessly ill-equipped to protect these valuable urban ecosystems - it needs an overhaul. Nevertheless, here are a few things you can do if you see something that worries you.

Get info: Urban bushland can be protected under planning laws, but clearing is often authorised under a Development Approval (DA). Some trees and scrub are protected by Council's Natural Assets Local Law (NALL) either under a Vegetation Protection Order (VPO) or if classified as Significant Urban Vegetation. Residents can nominate local trees for a VPO online, but these won't always stop clearing being authorised under a DA.

Check out Council's PD Online tool (pdonline.brisbane.qld.gov.au) and online Interactive Mapping Tool. Look at any DA at the address and check whether the land falls within the Biodiversity Overlay or the Significant Landscape Tree Overlay.

Take action: If you need more information about vegetation that might be protected under the NALL, or to seek a VPO, call BCC on 07 3403 8888. If you think that Council has approved clearing in breach of State rules, call 13 74 68.

Remember: These laws can be complex. EDO Qld has produced a helpful information sheet (edoqld.org.au/urban_tree_clearing), but don't hesitate to contact my office if we can help.

PREPARING FOR BUSHFIRES AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

We had a harrowing start to the year, with bushfires raging across southern Australia.

I've heard from many locals who want to know what steps are being taken to ensure bushfires don't threaten life or property on the west side, especially near our beautiful urban bushland like Mt Coot-tha.



Tips to reduce your property's fire risk:

- Clean your gutters
- Clear rubbish from under and around the house
- Remove overhanging vegetation

Brisbane City Council manages hazard reduction burns, and notifies residents about planned burns by letterbox drop and social media. Check the Council website for information about planned burns.

As a Greens MP, I support hazard reduction and prescribed burning to reduce the impact of bushfires. In November I called for a levy on big coal and gas companies to fund



My kids and I were proud to support the student-led climate strikes last year.

more firefighters, create a permanent aerial firefighting fleet, and support extra Indigenous Ranger jobs so hazard reduction burns are informed by traditional cultural practices.

Experts have made it clear that climate change has led to hotter, drier and more volatile weather, making bushfires harder to control and reducing the windows of time for safe hazard reduction burns. As well as taxing the fossil fuel companies responsible for this crisis, I'll keep pushing for a planned transition to clean energy, with retraining and support for coal workers and communities.

HOW I CAN HELP

HELPING YOU

As your MP I'm here to represent and help you. If you need help with an individual issue please get in touch. This could include dealing with State government departments or agencies, getting information about local infrastructure or developments, or discussing ideas for how we can improve our city. If you send my office an email, I'll try to respond personally.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY GROUPS

I am passionate about supporting this active community by amplifying local groups' work and campaigns. Here are some of the specific ways my office can support your local group or campaign:

- Printing newsletters, flyers, and other materials
- Free use of our meeting room and event equipment (PA system, marquee, BBQ)
- Help promoting your group or event
- Raffle prizes for community groups and schools
- Letters of support for grant applications

RAISING LOCAL ISSUES IN PARLIAMENT

My work in Parliament is based on my work here on the west side. I try to use every chance I get in Parliament to call for improvements for our community, or big policy changes that you care about.

For example, my community surveys showed climate change is the #1 concern for locals, so I raised this directly with the government during Question Time and introduced a bill to stop the Adani mine and all new coal mining in the Galilee Basin.

SOMETHING ELSE ?

I'm always looking for more ways to help! I think being a good local member means actively consulting with the community at every opportunity, so I always want to hear from you. Please get in touch any time.

迈克尔是您当地的议员成员同样也是Maiwar在昆士兰州议会的声音。迈克尔的工作是为您效劳。

迈克尔和他的团队将竭力帮助您向州政府不同部门、住房、交通和发展等当地问题进行宣传，同时迈克尔也将支持您的社区活动。翻译可以安排。

Michael은 주 의회에서 귀하의 지역 하원 의원이자 마이워의 발언권을 갖고 있습니다. 여러분을 위해 일하는 것은 Michael의 일입니다.

Michael과 그의 팀은 귀하에 관한 정부 부서, 주택, 교통과 개발과 같은 지역 문제를 해결하거나, 또는 귀하의 지역 사회를 위해 지원하는 것을 도울 수 있습니다. 통역가가 준비될 수 있습니다.

Soy tu representante local, y la voz de Maiwar en el parlamento estatal. Mi responsabilidad es trabajar para ti.

Mi equipo y yo te podemos ayudar con trámites frente a departamentos del estado de Queensland, vivienda, asuntos locales incluyendo transporte, y apoyo a iniciativas comunitarias. Puedes acceder a un intérprete gratuito si prefieres.

Michael adalah anggota parlemen local anda dan merupakan suara atau perwakilan Maiwar di Parlemen Queensland. Adalah tugas Michael bekerja untuk anda.

Michael bersama timnya bisa membantu anda dengan pembelaan kepada departemen, yang berhubungan dengan perumahan masalah-masalah lokal seperti lalu lintas dan pengembangan atau dukungan dan inisiatif bekerja untuk / komunitas. Penerjemah bisa di atur jika di butuhkan.

मैं आपका स्थानीय संसद सदस्य और राज्य संसद में मैवार की आवाज़ हूँ। आपके लिए कार्य करना मेरा करतव्य है। मैं और मेरी टीम वभिन्न मुद्दों पर आपकी सहायता कर सकते हैं उदाहरणार्थ सरकारी विभागों में आपकी वकालत, आवास, स्थानीय मुद्दे जैसे यातायात और विकास या सामुदायिक पहल में सहायता प्रदान करना। भाषा अनुवादकों की व्यवस्था की जा सकती है।

UPCOMING EVENTS

CATCH UP WITH ME

Here are some events I'm hosting in the next couple of months. I'd love to see you there!

POP-UP OFFICES

26 MAR

Thursday 26 March 1-2pm
French Tarts Patisserie
196 Boundary Rd, Bardon

9 APR

Thursday 9 April 8-9am
Peach Cafe
97 Haig Rd, Auchenflower

23 APR

Thursday 23 April 5-6pm
Station Road Bar and Kitchen
30 Station Rd, Indooroopilly

MARKET STALLS

22 MAR

Stall at Bardon Markets
Sunday 22 March 9-11am
Baroona Rd (Norman Buchan Park), Bardon

Follow my Facebook page or sign up at [michaelberkman.com.au/get_updates](https://www.facebook.com/michaelberkman) to receive local event updates.



Our electorate office is on stolen land.
We pay our respects to Aboriginal Elders past, present and emerging.