

Newport Residents Association

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information as a candidate for the Federal seat of Mackellar in the upcoming elections.

I have lived in the community of Mackellar for my entire life, I have worked in the community of Mackellar for my entire life and I have volunteered and served the community of Pittwater for the last 21 years of my life.

That was until the 12th of May 2016 when the Liberal State Government took it upon themselves to dismiss 3 efficient Councils along the Northern Beaches and combine them into 1 single Northern Beaches Council. Even though the Councillors have still not been formally advised, it is quite clear to us all that the Liberal State Government have sacked us!! And that is NOT democracy.

Following a best practice survey initiated by Pittwater council, I had a mandate from my community which shows 89% wished Pittwater Council to stand alone on our current boundaries as a strong independent Council.

But were the Liberal Party listening?

Can we trust a political party when this is how they treat their electors?

So it is for this reason that I have put my name forward to stand as an Independent Candidate for Mackellar, my community.

And it is for this reason that I will support my community, as your local member, if it is your wish to fight against this outcome.

Part of being a good local member or Councillor is all about knowing the uniqueness of the area, its people and their wishes. I believe that I am that person.

The seat of Mackellar has some significant issues that rely on both Local, State and Federal members understanding them, and then working together to get a resolution that works.

I need to ensure the building of the Northern Beaches Hospital continues to proceed and progress to completion, while at the same time ensuring that health services and emergency services are maintained at the old Mona Vale Hospital site. Provision for and, more importantly and more relevant, the funding for increased aged care services, palliative care and other associated health services need to be endorsed by all levels of Government to ensure the best care is available for Mackellar's aging population.

The maintenance of ambulance services in Avalon, particularly with the new hospital further up the road, and inaccessible on days like yesterday when both Mona Vale road, Pittwater Road and Wakehurst Parkway are flooded and subsequently closed is essential!!! I will use any power I have in ensuring that this is agreed to by governments, Federal or State.

Of course that leads to Mona Vale Road. While acknowledging that the redevelopment and widening of Mona Vale road is primarily a State issue, if there is funding available to assist with the project and getting it built as a matter of urgency, then I will do everything possible to source this additional funding. The Federal governments

responsibility towards road infrastructure is restricted to National Highways. Although Mona Vale Road is not quite a national highway, it is an essential piece of infrastructure for the people on the Northern part of Mackellar.

The maintenance and health of the Pittwater waterway is something that should be a high priority for all residents of Mackellar. Reduction of sewage outflows, pumping out of recreational boats and weed infestation, such as caulerpa taxifolia, may have a continued impact on this environment. Without our clean waterways there may be a significant loss of business's around the area, which provide jobs for young people and of course the owners. The previous Local government area of Pittwater has a higher than average number of small business's that could be detrimentally effected should we not have such a magnificent asset to enjoy. Fishing, boating, recreational sport and the associated sales spin offs and of course Tourism are major income generators for our community. Not to mention the possible reduction in home values should this asset be compromised.

As far as protection of our other environmental assets go, this has always been and will always be a significant issue and concern amongst all residents of Mackellar, but particularly those in the Northern end. What we need to ensure is that any plans, policies and development proposals put our environment first. We have to make sure that we fit in with the environment and not hoping that it will fit in with us!! To be honest, most of these issues will be dealt with by our new Northern Beaches Council and of course following the overarching policies of our State Government. Unfortunately, recently we have had reason to show concern as to the lead and direction that our Liberal State Government is taking us, with changes to planning, JRPPs, the initiation of the Greater Sydney Commission and of course the complete lack of trust we now have, following the local government reform process.

As I see it, a good leader is someone that directly, efficiently and effortlessly reflects the wishes, concerns and needs of the community they represent. I think I have shown that not only do I know my community but I have a proven track record of reflecting their wishes.

If you would be available to assist by handing out "How to Votes on July 2nd" please contact me, but most importantly remember to VOTE 1 JULIE HEGARTY and lets MAKE MACKELLAR MATTER!!

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