

Making housing a priority

Safe, secure, affordable housing is a human right that is crucial for health and wellbeing.

Low to mid income earners are paying rent beyond their means, unable to buy a home and falling into hardship. The government plans to boost housing supply through planning laws but we need to improve rental security and guarantee affordability.

Tenants remain insecure from no-grounds evictions, which are used to disguise evictions for complaining about a rent rise or lack of maintenance. I joined cross benchers to again call for their repeal and a Parliamentary inquiry will look at how best to replace the laws.

I initiated a separate inquiry into essential worker housing. The workers who make the city function can't afford to live here and the inquiry will help define which are essential and recommend policies to house them close to jobs.

Low-cost studio and one-bedroom flats are being replaced with fewer larger luxury apartments. I called for a review of the 75 percent rule which helps developers force vulnerable owners to sell their homes and I brought the Potts Point Preservation Group to the heritage minister's office to argue for heritage protections for 20th Century architecture in Potts Point/Elizabeth Bay.

Homelessness will only end with a strong social housing safety net. I welcome government funding for over 8,000 public housing homes and will push for more homes to meet need.



Alex Greenwich MP
Member for Sydney

NONRESIDENT HOMELESSNESS

More asylum seekers and temporary visa holders are sleeping rough especially women and children escaping domestic violence. They can't access government services and in Parliament I called for access to temporary accommodation so that charities can help them exit homelessness.

MORE HOMES FOR RENTERS

My submission to the government's review into short term letting called for a levy to raise funds for homelessness and stronger rules to prevent the wholesale conversion of homes into holiday accommodation. Residentially zoned housing should provide homes not hotels.

APARTMENT REPAIRS OVER-COMPLICATED

New rules that require registered professionals to submit regulated designs for apartment building works is improving quality but their application to repairs and maintenance is creating unnecessary complexities and costs. The minister agreed to my request to review exemptions and provide strata communities with more information.

SUPPORT FOR STRATA

I asked the government to better resource the Owners Corporation Network and the new Strata Commissioner to improve support for strata communities who are navigating an increasingly complex administrative framework and escalating costs. Support is especially important as the government increases housing density.



Independents and unions join forces for essential worker housing



Working with Business Sydney to address homelessness

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ENDING GENDERED VIOLENCE

Domestic, family and sexual violence is increasing with more than one woman in Australia murdered every week.

In Parliament I supported a government bill to protect victims in bail decisions. Anyone charged with a serious domestic violence or coercive control offence will have to prove that they are not a threat to get bail and offenders on bail will need to wear a monitoring device.

But bail reform won't help victims trying to escape abuse and I called for a funding boost for domestic violence support and housing.

GREG'S BILL BOOSTS ORGAN DONATIONS

In Parliament I supported my independent colleague Greg Piper's bill to protect donor organs for transplants. An organ transplant can give life and health, but there are long wait lists because there are not enough donors and donors need to die in hospital to preserve organs for donation. Challenges also arise in hospital because ante-mortem procedures that could improve the organ's integrity or determine if it is viable for donation can't proceed without a next-of-kin's consent – they can only consent to procedures that benefit the patient. Greg's bill allows a donor's next-of-kin to approve ante-mortem procedures to check or protect organs for donation. The bill passed and access to transplants is expected to rise.

CRUEL EXPERIMENTS BANNED

I helped pass an Animal Justice Party bill to ban forced swim and forced smoke tests which are cruel, have no scientific merit and have alternatives.

Forced swim tests drop mice into water filled beakers to time how long it takes them to stop swimming to test anti-depressants, and forced smoke tests confine mice in tubes while cigarette smoked is pumped into their nostrils to induce disease. While most credible researchers don't use these tests and Commonwealth research grants no longer fund them, the ban will see the remaining rogue operators forced to cease this unnecessary cruelty. I congratulate the Animal Justice Party for making the state a kinder place.



The long journey to ban conversion practices with Anthony Venn-Brown

HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY WIN

My bill to ban conversion practices formed the basis of government legislation that has now passed, making it an offence to try to change or suppress someone's sexuality or gender identity.

LGBTQ people still get told that they are broken, and need to and can be fixed if they undergo religious or pseudo therapeutic counselling, deliverances and spiritual guidance. Conversion practices cause significant emotional harm and they don't work.

Everyone should feel affirmed and welcome regardless of who they are or who they love and the state is now a safer and more inclusive place. Let's hope my Equality Bill is the next LGBTIQ+ reform to pass.

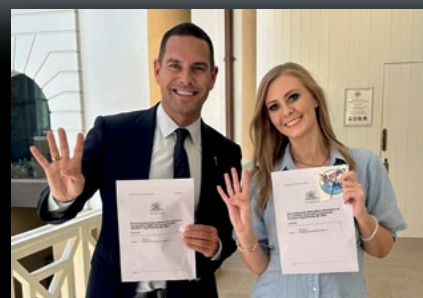
LOCKING UP KIDS IS NOT THE ANSWER

The government responded to rising youth car thefts and home break-ins in regional areas by making it harder for young offenders to get bail and increasing their sentences if they post their crimes on social media.

Prison and juvenile detention only set young people up for a lifetime of disadvantage and reoffending and disproportionately harm First Nations youth. I opposed the laws and argued that we should invest in rehabilitation, diversion programs, activities, education and employment opportunities to break the cycle of crime.



MPs united to outlaw coercive control



Passing our fourth animal welfare bill with Emma Hurst MLC

Alex Greenwich MP
Independent Member for Sydney

sydneynews



Surfers for Climate stopping offshore oil and gas

OFFSHORE GAS MINING STOPPED

Fossil fuel mining on our fragile coastline risks damaging the marine environment through oil spills, gas leaks, drilling fluids, sound, traffic and infrastructure like dragged anchor chains and drilling spoils. Previous attempts to stop an extension and expansion of the PEP-11 gas project off the coast between Sydney and Newcastle were overturned in the courts which is why last year I referred a private member's bill by the Liberal Member for Pittwater to an inquiry to determine whether it could withstand a court challenge. The inquiry recommended different legislation which has now passed, finally killing off PEP-11.

URBAN DENSITY NEEDS TO BE PLANNED

We will not resolve the housing affordability crisis by just letting developers build what they want, where they want. Government plans for blanket height and floor space ratio limits within a crude radius of train and light rail stations and shopping centres could reduce affordability as land values rise and developers replace low-cost flats with luxury apartments to maximise profit. I asked the planning minister to give councils housing targets so they can do the work to deliver density while protecting liveability, environment and heritage.

... AND BLUE GREEN SPACES PROTECTED

Sydney's habitat for threatened species like the koala is becoming fragmented, disrupting corridors needed for animals to escape adversity like fire or promote genetic variability. Work has been done to map a network of bushland, greenspaces and waterways but protections remain ad hoc. Together with metropolitan independents I asked the planning minister to set aside Sydney's blue green grid from development to protect biodiversity, provide recreational opportunities, and create a Sydney koala and whale circuit tourist attraction.

STRONGER PLANNING CONTROLS FOR COAL MINES

Despite an urgent need to cut greenhouse gas emissions, the planning system continues to approve new and expanded emissions intensive coal mines because it is bound by a pro-coal policy left over from the previous government. If all coal projects in the pipeline are approved, New South Wales will not meet its modest legislated greenhouse gas reduction targets. With my independent colleagues, I called for the pro-coal statement to be replaced with rules that reflect climate change targets. In response, the government released a policy making it clear that planning decisions for major projects must consider targets and promised to review the pro-coal statement.

NATIONAL PARKS MANAGEMENT

The biodiversity outlook for New South Wales is dire with a recent government report predicting extinction of half the state's threatened species over the next century. National parks provide habitat to native flora and fauna and are vital to their protection.

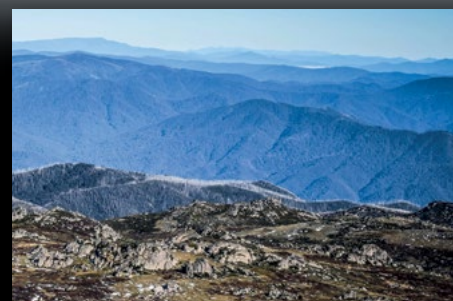
National parks have legal plans guiding sustainable management but increasingly plans are focussing on development not conservation. I worked with the National Parks Association to get the Minister for the Environment to establish a review process to improve national park plans of management. I also called for reservation of the Murrumbidgee Flora Reserves, which support the last significant koala population on the state's south coast.



Destructive coal mines



Knitting Nannas working with cross bench to protect the environment



National parks essential to biodiversity

Campaigns & People

TALKING ABOUT MENOPAUSE

Menopause and perimenopause affect half the population yet stigma, discrimination, assumptions and judgement hinder access to information, leaving many women without the support they need to manage symptoms. But more people are speaking openly about this life stage and NSW Health now has a toolkit and podcast. In Parliament I called for greater information and support for all stages and symptoms in the menopause journey, including for trans people.

LET'S GET WENTWORTH PARK BACK

I urged the government to return Wentworth Park to the community for recreational use when the greyhound racing lease expires in 2027. The previous government promised to remove racing as part of plans to increase housing density in Pyrmont but Greyhound Racing NSW has asked to extend the lease. Pyrmont is already one of the most densely populated areas in Australia and new uplift requires new social infrastructure. There are better uses for public land than animal cruelty and gambling harm.

VALUING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students contribute billions to education and the state's economy. Yet New South Wales is the only place in Australia that charges them full public transport fares adding to already high living costs in Sydney. In Parliament I spoke in support of a student union petition calling for international student travel concessions.

SAVING OCEAN LIFE

Ocean life is facing extinction from climate change, shipping, pollution, foreshore development, introduced species and overfishing. Marine species will only survive if we create sanctuary zones where fish can breed and larval replenish. Fish stocks around no-take zones are bigger and more abundant but the previous government revoked existing sanctuary zones. Only seven percent of the state's waters are protected when we need to get to 30 percent by 2030. In Parliament I called for a new approach that puts our oceans' future first with better education, consultation and accountability.

LANDMARK LGBTIQA+ APOLOGY

Forty years after homosexuality was decriminalised, Parliament apologised for originally legislating the harmful laws. Criminal records impacted on the employment, relationships and privacy of thousands of men while the laws justified hatred and violence. Decriminalisation was a milestone but state laws still discriminate against LGBTIQA+ people and during the apology I called on the government to work with me to pass my LGBTIQA+ Equality Bill this year.

SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

This year I helped secure Community Building Partnership Grants for: St Canice's Church to refurbish the hall; Wayside Chapel to upgrade kitchen cooling; Bobby Goldsmith Foundation for a new vehicle; The Girls and Boys Brigade for air conditioning; Jewish House for plumbing repairs in transitional accommodation; Rushcutters Bay Kindergarten Union for a hydraulic change table; and the Millers Point Cooperative for an organic waste recycling project. These groups can now provide better facilities and services for their fantastic work.



Wentworth Park needed for community use



International students unite for fairer fares



Parliament apologises for gay convictions



With Minister Jackson at the Wayside Chapel where \$100,000 will support non residents who are homeless



At St Canice's with Member for Wentworth, Allegra Spender