

**Angela Vithoulkas, Living Sydney**

**1. Heritage:**

*What strategies would you adopt to ensure high levels of protection for heritage in Glebe and elsewhere in the City of Sydney, in light of the decreased protection resulting from recent State Government changes to Planning and Heritage legislation?*

Living Sydney has a strong commitment to the three “R”s: respect, restore and retain. We must respect, restore and retain our heritage buildings and areas, by the implementing those three “R”s, the fundamental requirement of heritage protection. The proposed State Government Green paper does contain “Heritage Zone” provisions however Living Sydney does not believe that the paper considers properly the significant heritage that is unique to the LGA of Sydney, particularly Glebe which is home to much of Sydney’s heritage. Living Sydney will lobby hard to have special consideration of the heritage items of Glebe and surrounding areas protected by legislation. In addition, Living Sydney will offer to rate payers of noted heritage buildings a subsidy on their rates. I believe this will go some way to prevent demolition by neglect.

**2. Environment:**

*The City has a major commitment to environmental sustainability. What are your priorities for achieving sustainability and involving residents in the issues?*

This council has a responsibility to go beyond the 2030 targets that have been imposed on all councils by the State Government. At the moment, the current administration does not consider the environmental triple bottom line, that is the sustainable economic, social and environmental needs and impacts that Living Sydney has as a cornerstone of our environmental policy.

By achieving the triple bottom line, residents will benefit from a cleaner, healthier Sydney and Living Sydney will provide workshops and advice to resident groups, small business groups and empower them to make informed decisions.

Living Sydney will establish the world leading headquarters for world class research into sustainability and emissions reduction. We believe that Sydney can be and should be at the forefront of city sustainability and be in a position to be world leaders in this field. Residents will be encouraged to be part of this exciting venture.

**3. Housing:**

*What do you see as the challenges in implementing the social and affordable housing development in Cowper Street and what approach would you adopt to meet those challenges?*

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The Cowper Street site is under the authority of the State Government and is planned to be a mix of different housing types to suit the mix in the community, however it is being funded in part by the sell-off of public housing at the Rocks.

The main challenge in implementing the development is the cost and it will require private market funding and sale of dwellings to enable the social and affordable housing development. Part of our approach would be to encourage developers to be more creative about making affordable housing part of main stream developments and encourage them to integrate social and affordable housing into their developments. Our Sydney Housing First plan will be released shortly and will demonstrate our priority and commitment to housing.

### **4. *Small Business:***

*What strategies will you seek to implement to promote and support small businesses in Glebe and Forest Lodge?*

Small businesses have been ravaged by the current administration's approach to parking. The long suffering small business owners on Glebe Point Road have put up with years of road works, street narrowing and pavement closures and as a result many have had to close or sell up for what they could salvage. The shopping districts at Glebe and Forest lodge represent more than a shopping strip, it is a place where people come together, chat and form a community. Residents need their local shops and the shop keepers need the residents.

Living Sydney is proud to support small business. We will do this with our small business precinct committees. These will be funded by Council but not run by Council nor interfered with by Council. Glebe and Forest Lodge are wonderfully unique. Living Sydney, with advice from the small business community of Glebe and Forest Lodge, will encourage the unique nature of this area to attract visitors from all over Sydney. We will also immediately review the parking signs and restrictions. At the moment, there are loading zones operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This does not reflect reality and it restricts the trading of the shopkeepers.

Living Sydney will remove the fees for outdoor dining for cafes and restaurants in the local government area of Sydney. Outdoor dining encourages social interaction and in an increasing disconnected world, it may be the only place where some people interact. There will still be an application process, an application fee, the DA will be assessed and clear footways must be maintained, but the on-going rental fees will be abolished.

### **5. *Bays Precinct***

*Bays Precinct. What action will the City take to get the best possible outcomes for the community in the planning for the Bays Precinct?*

This site of over 40 hectares is owned and controlled by primarily the Sydney Ports Corporation and Glebe Island is owned and controlled by SHFA. The draft

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Master plan divides the Precinct into 4 areas; the submissions have now finished to comment on the plan. There are many commendable aspects of the plan such as the solar banks and the public transport hub however, there are historic sites like the Power Station which need careful handling. The proposal to have the overseas passenger terminal there will place a huge strain on the local roads and buses will be required to get tourists in and out, again a massive load on the local streets and Anzac bridge. We don't believe there is adequate parking and the local streets will be parked out by workers, similar to the situation with the ATP in Redfern. There is no provision for any mixed use – it is all commercial use and this is not consistent with best planning practice. Without some residential component, the area becomes one dimensional and with the possible outcome of being cold and desolate at night with the security risks that are associated with purely commercial development.

Because the site is not directly under the City's control, we must work very hard to lobby on behalf of the people of Glebe and Pyrmont because they will directly affected by the development which is expected to take over 10 years. The Glebe island site cannot commence until 2020 so it is very important to maintain communication and represent the people over this time frame. The City of Sydney is the largest and most influential council in the state and Living Sydney will champion the voice of the people of Glebe and Pyrmont to the State Government for the best outcomes.