

## Meet the Candidates 2012 - Clover Moore

### 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?**

The Clover Moore Independent Team is strongly committed to protecting our built heritage and significant village conservation areas.

The City Plan adopted this year retained 194 heritage items previously identified in Glebe and Forest Lodge and listed 11 new heritage items in Glebe and Forest Lodge. Around 2200 heritage items are listed in the overall Plan. We're also investigating another 13 items nominated by the community, some of those from Glebe.

The City Plan also lists 73 conservation areas, of which 8 are in Glebe, including Toxteth and Bishopthorpe Estates and Glebe Point Road Conservation Areas.

Heritage controls have been strengthened by mapping all conservation areas showing whether a building is Contributory, Neutral or Detracting and detailed controls have been improved to protect significant buildings.

The blanket listing which previously covered the whole of Glebe has been replaced by detailed statements of significance for each of the neighbourhoods in Glebe. This makes it clear to applicants and the Land and Environment Court that we want to protect places like Glebe.

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

Environmental sustainability was not a priority for the City of Sydney before the Clover Moore Independent Team was elected in April 2004. Over the past eight years we have ensured that it is a major focus of all our work, developing our long term plan for the future - Sustainable Sydney 2030 - developed after we conducted the most extensive consultation in the City's history talking to tens of thousands of residents, businesses and visitors, and thorough research.

The majority of people said they wanted the City to take action to address climate change and we're well on track to meet our target to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 70 per cent by 2030 (on 2006 levels).

We're taking practical steps to retrofit our buildings, street lighting, transport networks and public spaces and in 2007, the City became Australia's first carbon neutral Council.

We've finished 18 solar projects, reducing emissions by 180 tonnes and will be fitting out 30 more sites over the next two years under a \$6 million project to generate 12.5 per cent of the City's electricity needs.

Through building retrofits, we've reduced emissions by 18 per cent across our property portfolio since 2006, and we're the first Australian city to roll out LED energy efficient lighting, replacing

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about 6,450 street and park lights over the next three years saving emissions and nearly \$800,000 a year in electricity bills.

We've greened our city with 7500 new trees planted over eight years, reduced waste, and improved energy and water performance.

One of our major commitments is implementing our ambitious program to take the city off the coal fired energy grid by using low carbon, local energy precincts called trigeneration. We've already signed a development agreement with Cogent Energy — something supported by all current Councillors.

Business in central Sydney are the major energy users and our low carbon zones across the CBD, Green Square and Ultimo Pyrmont will supply about 70% of the City's energy needs, reduce emissions by about one third and avoid \$1.5 billion in energy infrastructure costs.

Trigeneration plants are already being used in individual buildings by companies in Sydney and our plan to connect multiple buildings to a network is similar to what already happens in several countries in Europe, Asia and the USA including New York.

Reducing inefficient water use will be another focus of the next term. Our decentralised water plan will reduce drinking water use by 10% through water efficiency, replace 10% of non drinking water with recycled water and reduce water pollution by 50% by 2030. The plan has options for sewer mining at Johnsons Creek and Wentworth Park stormwater harvesting.

In our villages our priorities are working with residents to help them lead more sustainable lives in practical ways. Our Environmental Grants enable not-for-profit groups to receive funding up to V \$5,000 for environmental projects. We run workshops about recycling and upcycling, growing your own food, composting, worm farming and natural cleaning.

The Green Living Centre provides one on one advice to small business about improving environmental performance and cutting costs, promoting sustainability and conducting a self-assessment checklist.

### **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?**

The Clover Moore Independent Team recognises the urgent need for affordable housing to enable the people who make the city function — cleaners, police, nurses, essential services workers, tradespeople, maintenance workers etc - are able to live close to their work. A decent, civilised and compassionate society should also provide adequate housing for people who are marginalised or economically and socially disadvantaged.

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That's why Sustainable Sydney 2030 sets a target of ensuring 15% of all homes in the City can be classified as affordable or social housing by 2030. An extra 8000 new affordable and social homes are needed to meet the target.

Under this target the total number of units of social housing will increase. Because of the pressing need for new affordable housing units, their numbers will also increase. This overall increase in housing in the city will result in some change in the proportions of types of housing. Some people attempt to misrepresent this as a reduction, by focussing only on the percentages and ignoring the actual numbers.

The Cowper Street project will help reach Sustainable Sydney 2030's affordable housing target.

It arises from the Memorandum of Understanding I signed with the then Housing Minister in April 2008 to investigate redeveloping land for affordable housing.

The development model for project should meet the challenge of ensuring that renewing social housing and providing new affordable housing can be funded. To achieve this, the total number of units on the site has to increase to meet the costs of the additional social housing units and new affordable housing units. While the details are still to be finalised, the development is expected to have 153 social (up from the 134 dwellings previously on the site), 90 affordable and 250 market dwellings. The market dwellings will subsidise the cost of building the social and affordable dwellings.

The new housing will better meets the needs of people on Housing NSW's waiting list, particularly in Glebe, where there is a shortage of small units and units for seniors or people with disabilities. Only one of the existing buildings had lift access.

The affordable and private housing will also create a more diverse community and is consistent with Housing NSW's policy of encouraging social housing tenants to become part of the broader community.

As the site is owned by Housing NSW, Council is not able to refuse the development under the current legislation.

In addition to the Glebe Affordable Housing Project, our sale of part of the former South Sydney Hospital site to City West Housing will provide over 100 affordable housing units, and a project coordinated by the Inner City Mayors Forum which will identify suitable sites for affordable housing development across inner Sydney.

The Clover Moore Independent Team also recognises that many people may find themselves without permanent housing. The City is the only council in NSW with a dedicated homelessness unit and funds outreach teams and referral services to help homeless people get and keep housing, and access to health and welfare services.

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### 4. Small Business

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

The Clover Moore Independent Team recognises the key contribution small business makes to village centres such as Glebe and Forest Lodge.

Under our leadership, the City has established a Strategy & Economic Development Unit, with funding of \$5 million for 2012-2013, increased from \$3.2M in the previous financial year. This Unit includes a business precincts team, with coordinators who work with business organisations and business in each of our village centres.

The Strategy and Economic Development Unit also coordinates several other initiatives to support small business, including our Let's Talk Business seminars, business greening programs, Business Crime Prevention forums, business newsletters and the City of Sydney Small Business Awards.

Under our leadership, the City established the Business Support Program, which has now developed into the Village Business Partnership Program. This program provides grants of up to \$80,000 for not for profit village based business organisations to help build their organisations and to undertake activities which market and promote their villages, such as events or promotional materials.

Our Business Precincts Team is working with the Glebe Chamber of Commerce to develop a strategic plan which will enable the Chamber to apply for a grant from the program, which I hope Council will be able to consider later this year.

The Glebe Chamber previously received funding under the Business Support Program.

The Clover Moore Independent Team strongly supports the Glebe Street Fair as a major event not only for promoting Glebe Point Road, but celebrating one of the most important village centres in the inner west.

### 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?**

I appreciate the community's concern about the Bays Precinct planning, having attended the recent NSW Government community workshops in Glebe. Planning for the Bays Precinct should be accountable and transparent, and based on an integrated plan for the whole area that's been developed in consultation with the community. We must ensure that state owned sites are not issued leases and developed in an ad-hoc manner without having a strategic plan in place.

The City is working to: ·

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- Increase open space and public access to the foreshore; ·
- Provide an appropriate scale of mixed use development to activate the harbour;
- Preserve industrial and maritime heritage;
- Provide new cultural and community facilities; and ·
- Improve public transport.

Completing the foreshore walk on Bridge Road, connecting the Blackwattle Bay Foreshore Walk to the Sydney Fish Market is a priority.

The Clover Moore Independent Team also strongly supports the retention and reuse of Glebe Island Bridge. It must be listed on the NSW Heritage Register to provide it with the heritage protection it deserves.

I will continue to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure to find a site for the Sydney Heritage Fleet away from sensitive residential areas.

The Bays Precinct is one of the last natural deepwater ports of Sydney Harbour; however, we need to make sure commercial uses are balanced with community needs.