

Meet the Candidates 2012 – Edward Mandla

Opening

Thank you to Mairead (Marade) Browne and the Glebe Society for organising this “**Meet The Candidates Forum**”

One way or another, it’s going to be a **very different Council** and it’s great to meet many of you tonight.

I’d like to acknowledge my running partners on the Council ticket, **Christine Forster** and **Sean O’Connor**.

I’ve got a strong team, with exceptional business credentials. I hope you will give us due consideration.

I have a confession to make, I just love Glebe. I’ve nearly bought here on a couple of occasions and I wouldn’t be surprised if I retire here one day.

I’ve got a big family. 4 children, 5th on the way. Endless nieces and nephews and we have 2 reunions per annum and they’re both in the area.

Easter is always in Bicentennial Park
And we do an annual remembrance lunch for Poppy Mick at the Nag’s Head – he would have been 101 but we talk about him and other departed relatives.

It’s a great way for all the young ones and teenagers to reflect on their heritage in one of the great heritage areas of Sydney.

But in many ways that’s what heritage is all about – something we learn from and enjoy today – something we want to make sure is kept for future generations

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Heritage

The soul of Heritage preservation lies with community groups.

They need to be **active** and **vigilant**.

They need to be watching over the Shoulders of governments and making sure Heritage is “front of mind”.

As Lord Mayor I’d like to see regular audits of Heritage Listings, maybe annual or biannual, taking into consideration proposed Heritage Buildings and ensuring we’re protecting heritage items

I’m at the stage were I think anything older 50 years should have a heritage report

I’d also like to see a City of Sydney Heritage Advisory hotline.

We should encourage owners to restore their property back to its former glory.

It would be great if Council could come out and help people understand what’s original, what’s modified, what are the possibilities, where they can source materials, what they should be planning for and even advice on colours

This is far better than having plans rejected down the track – you work with people up front

It’s education and a service to the entire community

There’s an upcoming DCP for Glebe.

I will ensure strong protection for the **nature of Glebe**.

We don’t want unexpected convenience stores

And we don’t want what happened to the back of Paddington with unsympathetic development

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Cowper Street

And that's what I'm worried about in Cowper Street

We need a development that will fit into the neighbourhood

We're going to have a mixture of public housing, affordable housing and private residents.

I'd like to see strategies where we can integrate people so they can socialise and feel part of Glebe and Ultimo

Perhaps this could be retail and coffee shops
Common areas – for BBQ's

With all new developments, we need to ensure they're designed to be as self sufficient as possible using all sensible available technologies to minimise the impact on the environment

I believe people are fundamentally sympathetic to the environment – clever new developments just help to nudge that along.

When I went to the Cowper Street site on Saturday, I found it hard to park.

Once the development is complete **there won't be** anywhere to park.

Our Liberal policy is that **we like bikes, we love walking** but **we don't hate cars**.

There are natural forces that encourage people to walk, cycle and catch public transport but people still need cars

They may rarely use them but it's better that they're in a car park rather than taking up precious spaces on the streets

People need visitors and we ought to make sure that "no parking" isn't the reason **people from the suburbs** don't visit

My vision for Cowper Street is "Inclusion" and "Avoiding Loneliness"

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Harold Park

If I could comment on the Harold Park development

I've had a yack with the real estate agent – I'm bit taken back by the prices

The conversation was interesting.

He said the apartments without parking are cheaper but you'd be an idiot to buy them – too hard to sell

He also said that visitors and overflow parking would be all over the streets

It's just so unfair to local residents

As the Liberal Lord Mayor, I will require a **local infrastructure test** to be applied for **informed assessment** of all new major developments.

We need to make sure we have the train and bus capacities.
We need to consider integrating bike and walking paths
We need to look at light rail options
We need to ensure that not one resident parking space is taken

My test would have made it harder for the development

My test would have better highlighted the congestion issues

My test would have allowed a stronger dialogue with the State government where I have a natural advantage as I have relationships and influence with ministers

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Bays Precinct

With the bays precinct, the City of Sydney had done a wonderful job on the foreshore

But there are so many fingers in the pie.

I see some guiding principles:

It needs an all encompassing strategic approach and the city needs to demand more transparency – what's going on must be reported to council

We need to protect public ownership where possible

We need to ensure continuous public access to the foreshore - not to be locked up with government and private owners

It's a precious resource for all.

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Messages

A lot of what you've asked us to speak about tonight is **about today**. But the council is consumed with 2030 discussions.

After 24 years of public office, **The Lord Mayor** has lost her way.

It seems like the basics are boring and there needs to be stimulation from "nutty schemes" like building power plants in our communities.

That's why streets aren't safe, there's no-where to park and local business are struggling.

The Liberals have a plan for **Safer Streets** – this will be released later this week

The Liberals have a plan for **Cutting Wasteful Spending** – business and residents are doing it tough and I believe the council ought to mirror the community and tighten their belt by reducing rates – rather than increasing them

As Lord Mayor, I will immediately cut business and residential rates by 10%

We've done the math, major current projects will be delivered, and we won't reduce staffing levels

The Liberals have a plan for **Supporting local businesses** – if we don't support them – we'll lose them. We will

1. Remove those horrid pavement-dining levies that hold back Al Fresco dining and strangle local operators
2. We'll provide parking for local business owners so they can be more productive
3. And we'll be providing 15 minutes free parking to encourage "park local – buy local"
4. We'll reduce business rates by 10%

I will drive the council **back to basics**.

There **will be** lots of **common sense** and your opinion will be **heard** and treated with **respect** even if I disagree
Together we can build a great city for **today** and not just 2030