

Meet the Candidates 2012 – Irene Doutney

GLEBE MEET THE CANDIDATES – TUESDAY 21ST AUGUST 2012

I'D LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE ARE MEETING ON ABORIGINAL LAND, GADIGAL LAND AND I PAY MY RESPECTS TO ELDERS PAST AND PRESENT.

I'D ALSO LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY FELLOW CANDIDATES, DE BRIERLEY – NEWTON NUMBER 2 ON OUR TICKET AND THANK THE GLEBE SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING TONIGHTS FORUM.

AS THERE ARE 5 POINTS TO ADDRESS TONIGHT I WILL JUST BRIEFLY MENTION OUR PLAN TO INTRODUCE PRECINCT COMMITTEES AS A MEANS OF GIVING RESIDENTS ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS AND DAS THAT AFFECT THEIR PRECINCTS. PRECINCT COMMITTEES WOULD GIVE RESIDENTS A PROCESS TO HAVE MORE INPUT INTO COUNCIL'S DECISION MAKING. THEY ARE MEANT TO COMPLIMENT RESIDENT ACTION GROUPS AND SUPPLY ANOTHER FORM OF MORE DIRECT ACCESS TO COUNCIL.

WITH THIS IN MIND I WILL NOW ADDRESS THE ISSUES RAISED BY THE ORGANISERS.

IN TERMS OF HERITAGE THE GREENS DID NOT SUPPORT THE LEP BECAUSE OF CERTAIN UPZONINGS IN HERITAGE AND UNIQUE SUBURBS LIKE THE INCREASES IN SOME BLOCKS OF GLEBE POINT ROAD WHICH INCREASED THE FSR FROM 0.7:1 TO 1.1:1. THE PROBLEMS WERE EVEN GREATER IN SUBURBS LIKE ERSKINEVILLE AND ALEXANDRIA AND WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT HERITAGE PROTECTION IS INCREASED IN OUR PLANNING DOCUMENTS.

TOO OFTEN DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS ARE APPROVED WHICH EXCEED THE CONTROLS WHICH CAN BE DISASTROUS FOR NEIGHBOURS AND THE STREETScape. THE GREENS WILL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE SUCH DEVELOPMENTS WHERE THEY EXCEED THE CONTROLS AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE NEW DEVELOPMENTS WHICH CALL FOR THE DEMOLITION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS, WHICH HAVE NO HERITAGE LISTING BUT WHICH ARE STILL IMPORTANT EXAMPLES OF SOCIAL, ARCHITECTURAL AND STREETScape HISTORY.

I AM VERY CONCERNED WITH THE PLANNING GREEN PAPER AND BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY HERITAGE POINT IN THE WHOLE PAPER IS THE POSSIBILITY OF ACQUIRING A "SUBURBAN CHARACTER ZONING" IF THAT IS STILL INCLUDED IN THE FINAL PAPER. THE CHANGES FORESHADOWED WOULD TAKE THE COMMUNITY AND COUNCILLORS OUT OF THE PLANNING PROCESS WITH ONLY FAUX INPUT AT THE REGIONAL PLANNING STAGE.

ONCE THIS HAPPENS THERE WILL BE HAROLD PARK DEVELOPMENTS EVERYWHERE WITH NO PROCESS TO OBJECT AT ALL. IN REFERENCE TO HAROLD PARK THE GREENS HAVE SUPPORTED THE COMMUNITY'S CONCERN WITH HEIGHT, DENSITY AND TRAFFIC ISSUES. MY COLLEAGUE CHRIS HARRIS CAMPAIGNED TO SAVE THE TRAMS SHEDS, WHILE GREENS MP, JAMIE PARKER, HAS FOUGHT TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITIES VERY VALID TRAFFIC AND SAFETY CONCERNS

IN TERMS OF SUSTAINABILITY THE GREENS HAVE SUPPORTED THE CHIPPENDALE SUSTAINABLE STREETS PLAN AND LOBBIED HARD TO SEE COUNCIL INTRODUCE INCENTIVES FOR RESIDENTS TO PLANT NATIVE TREES ON THEIR PROPERTIES AS THE CITY IS FAST RUNNING OUT OF PLACES TO PLANT STREET TREES. I SUPPORT THE CREATION OF URBAN FORESTS, THE RETENTION OF WHAT

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WILD PLACES ARE LEFT, THE WORK OF THE LOCAL LANDCARE GROUPS AND THE SUPPORT AND PROTECTION OF OUR NATIVE WILDLIFE PARTICULARLY THE SMALL BIRDS SO LOVED IN GLEBE.

WE WANT TO SEE MORE FOOD GROWN LOCALLY AND SUPPORT COMMUNITY GARDENS AND WOULD FUND COMMUNITY PROJECTS THAT PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABILITY AND BIODIVERSITY.

IN DEVELOPMENT WE WOULD GO BEYOND BASIX AND DEMAND SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES IN ALL NEW BUILDINGS INCLUDING GREEN ROOFS AND WALLS, RECYCLED MATERIALS, WATER REUSE AND SOLAR PANELS.

WE SUPPORT THE DIRECTION THE CITY IS TAKING IN CREATING TRIGENERATION, WATER RECYCLING AND OTHER MEASURES TO FUTURE PROOF THE CITY. THIS IS A PROJECT THAT IS INCREDIBLY FAR-SIGHTED AND SHOULD NEVER BE DISMISSED AS A “NUTTY SCHEME”. IT IS IMPORTANT WORK AND I AM PROUD TO HAVE BEEN PART OF IT.

WHERE HOUSING IS CONCERNED I HAVE BIG CONCERNS ABOUT THE GLEBE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT AT COWPER STREET- THE GREENS WERE THE ONLY COUNCILLORS WHO OPPOSED THE PROPOSAL WHEN IT CAME TO COUNCIL UNDER THE MUCH CONTESTED GROUNDS OF SOCIAL MIX. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT PRIME PUBLIC HOUSING LAND SHOULD BE SOLD OFF FOR PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT WHEN THERE ARE OVER 52,000 PEOPLE ON THE HOUSING WAIT LIST.

THE GREENS WOULD SEE THE COWPER STREET SITE REDEVELOPED FOR PUBLIC AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING ONLY, WITH TRIALS OF ALTERNATIVE HOUSING TENURES SUCH AS CO-OPERATIVES, COMMUNITY LAND TRUSTS, COLLECTIVES WITH AN EMPHASIS ON COMMUNITY FACILITIES SUCH AS GARDENS, MEN’S SHED, ART SPACE AND OTHER FACILITIES THAT ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION. WE WOULD INSIST THAT A SUITABLE PLACEMENT POLICY IS PUT IN PLACE THAT WOULD CATER TO OLDER AND SINGLE TENANTS WITH APPROPRIATE RENTAL HISTORIES.

I ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE APPROVED DEVELOPMENT WITH HEIGHTS OF UP TO 8 STOREYS WILL DESTROY THE HERITAGE NATURE OF THAT QUIET POCKET OF RESIDENTIAL HOMES.

SMALL BUSINESS IS AT THE HEART OF THE GLEBE VILLAGE, FOREST LODGE AND THE LOCAL AREA AND THE GREENS WOULD SET UP A SMALL BUSINESS PANEL, SEPARATE FROM THE EXISTING RETAIL PANEL WHICH IS DOMINATED BY THE BIG END OF TOWN. I WOULD APPROVE THE USE OF FOOTWAY TRADING SO THAT SMALL BUSINESSES COULD DISPLAY THEIR PRODUCTS ON THE FOOTPATH WITHOUT FEAR OF BEING FINED.

I WOULD ALSO SEE SMALL BUSINESS AS A CENTRAL PARTICIPANT IN PRECINCT COMMITTEES WHERE THEY COULD VOICE THEIR NEEDS DIRECTLY TO COUNCIL AND HAVE INPUT INTO THE REQUESTS AND PLANS PUT TO COUNCIL.

THE GREENS AREN’T MAKING GRAND PROMISES WE CAN’T KEEP BUT WE WOULD SUPPORT AND LISTEN TO THE NEEDS AND SUGGESTIONS OF A SMALL BUSINESS PANEL AND DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO BRING THEM TO FRUITION.

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THE GREENS BELIEVE THAT THE BAYS PRECINCT TASKFORCE NEEDS TO BE DEMOCRATISED SO THAT THERE IS MORE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION ON THE TASKFORCE. WE WOULD ENSURE THAT THE PARTS WITHIN OUR LGA HAVE A 20 METRE BUILDING SETBACK AND ARE APPROPRIATE AND IN KEEPING WITH THE AREA. WE WOULD LIASE WITH ADJOINING COUNCILS AND STAKEHOLDERS TO ACHIEVE A BEAUTIFUL, ACCESSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE PRECINCT. WE WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE ANOTHER HAROLD PARK THROWN UP IN THE AREA.

FINALLY WE SUPPORT THE RETENTION OF THE GLEBE ISLAND BRIDGE FOR COMMUNITY USE AND RECOGNISE ITS UNIQUES HISTORY AS THE LAST ELECTRIC SWING BRIDGE IN THE COUNTRY. THE PRECINCT SHOULD BE TREATED AS A WHOLE AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASKFORCE SHOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY. THE GREENS DO NOT BELIEVE THE BAYS SHOULD BECOME JUST ANOTHER OVERDEVELOPMENT WITH MARINAS FOR SUPERYACHTS EVERYWHERE. IT MUST BECOME A JEWEL FOR THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE NOT JUST ANOTHER AWFUL REDEVELOPMENT PROCESS. UNDER MY LEADERSHIP THE CITY WOULD HELP RAISE THE \$7 MILLION THAT IS NEEDED TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN RETENTION AND DEMOLITION.