



JONATHAN O'DEA M.P.

STATE MEMBER FOR DAVIDSON

Davidson

BUILDING FOR TOMORROW

CONTACT US:

Suite 8A, 12-18 Tryon Road Lindfield NSW 2070

PHONE 02 9880 7400 **FAX** 02 9880 7488

EMAIL davidson@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Resident,

In my October Davidson Electorate Newsletter I wrote about the impact of rising power costs. Since then, the government has undertaken a largely secretive sale of electricity assets. Despite Labor's attempts to avoid public scrutiny and Parliamentary accountability, there has been substantial media coverage of this issue.

The three key questions the public needs fully answered are:

- Why did eight Labor-appointed energy company directors resign during the midnight sale?
- What impact will the asset sales have on future power price rises?
- Did NSW taxpayers receive value for money?

The early proroguing of Parliament under Premier Keneally has made it difficult to answer these

questions before Parliament sits again, suggesting Labor has something to hide. Premier Keneally discouraged power company directors from giving evidence to an Upper House inquiry, although one director publicly declared the deal a "dud." At the same time, NSW Treasurer Roozendaal disturbingly declared that the NSW Government had to sell the state's power assets to avoid an automatic downgrade by credit rating agencies.

On a more positive local note, I have been pleased to support funding for many local projects under this year's Community Building Partnerships program. Some of those excellent community-based projects are featured in this newsletter.

Yours sincerely,



AUSTRALIA DAY

On Australia Day, I attended a number of Citizenship and Award Ceremonies across the Ku-ring-gai and Warringah Local Government areas. Many residents from a wide variety of backgrounds declared their allegiance to Australia and are now "True Blue Aussies". Congratulations to them all.



Jonathan O'Dea, Australia Day Ambassador Don Burke, Ku-ring-gai Mayor Ian Cross, and Local MP Barry O'Farrell.



Warringah Mayor Michael Regan, Australia Day Ambassador and former Master Chef finalist Aaron Harvie and Jonathan O'Dea.

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The Ku-ring-gai Youth Development Service, based in Lindfield, has a vision to improve the health and wellbeing of young

people on Sydney's North Shore. Its mission is to provide professional and accessible counselling services, youth development and education to promote positive change for young people and their families. When the NSW Parliament recently updated the Davidson electorate computers, I was able to donate the old computers to KYDS to assist their valuable service to the community. Special guest at the Annual KYDS Fundraising Dinner was former Miss World Australia, Caroline Pemberton, who spoke on body image issues.

NO MORE DWELLINGS

I oppose the Government's proposal for a further 8,000 dwellings in the Ku-ring-gai Council area by 2036.

Ku-ring-gai Council has already agreed to accept an additional 10,000 new dwellings by 2031 and this has already been exceeded under gazetted plans. Pressure is also being placed on Warringah Council to zone for more dwellings. Whatever outcome, it must be with appropriate local community input and be accompanied by appropriate public infrastructure investment.

NORTHERN PENINSULA TRANSPORT & HEALTH PRIORITIES

I strongly support the transport and health priorities identified in SHOROC's "Shaping Our Future" strategy document. We need to progress these priorities, particularly the bus rapid transit system proposals and the new Northern Beaches Hospital. The Liberals have already promised to meaningfully commence construction of the new hospital as a matter of priority.

SCHOOL LEADERS TOUR PARLIAMENT

Late last year, leaders from 14 local Primary Schools toured NSW Parliament's Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council Chambers to see where state laws are passed. The students also had the opportunity to ask questions over afternoon tea. The introduction to Parliament House comes at an important time in the state's history as we prepare for the election of the 55th Parliament on Saturday, 26 March 2011.



Some of the School Leaders in the NSW Legislative Assembly.

LIFE EDUCATION AMBASSADOR

Life Education is the nation's largest not-for-profit provider of preventative drug education in schools. Life Education is built on the philosophy that prevention is better than cure. Many young students will identify the program through Healthy Harold, the giraffe mascot. I have witnessed the local delivery of the program to students and happily promoted the program in the NSW Parliament. Life Education representatives, Jay Bacik and Alan Cadman, recently presented me with a plaque as a Life Education Ambassador.



COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Over \$500,000 has been allocated to Davidson community organisations through the NSW Community Building Partnerships program.

The grants will help fund new facilities, upgrades and maintenance for a wide range

of community groups, including St Ives Occasional Care, The Cottage Counselling Centre, local Scouts, pre-schools and local churches. Sporting groups also attracted funding, including the East Roseville Bowling Club (see photo of Club President, Phil Lewis receiving his Men's Club Champion Award), Gordon Football (Soccer) Club and the Lindfield District Cricket Club (see photo at their Australia Day charity match this year in aid of Cromehurst School in Lindfield, for children with special needs).



OPENING OF THE SHED

The Ku-ring-gai Community Workshop (The Shed) finally has its new home at the St Ives Showground. The Shed initially provided community workshop facilities for retired men and is now also attracting women members. The new facilities were funded equally by the NSW Community Building Partnerships program (on my recommendation) and Ku-ring-gai Council.

LOCAL CARERS HONOURED

The invaluable, selfless work of carers in our community should never be forgotten.

Sue O'Reilly of Forestville, who cares for her son with a severe disability, is the founder of the *Mad as Hell* campaign for better disability support, and is lobbying for a National Disability Insurance Scheme. 9 year old Jameson Smith of St Ives is a carer for his brother Jesse, who has an intellectual disability and Asperger's Syndrome. He also shows great compassion towards his cousin with cerebral palsy and his disabled grandfather, who has suffered a stroke. Both Sue and Jameson have been honoured with Local Carer Awards.

I was pleased to attend the recent *Show Your Strength* Rally on the forecourt of the Sydney Opera House, highlighting ongoing challenges for those in the disability sector.



Jonathan O'Dea, Kevin Callinan (President, The Shed) Graeme Harvey (Ku-ring-gai Lions Club) & Mayor Ian Cross at the official opening.



MULTICULTURALLY FRIENDLY

It was an honour to be recently named the Armenian National Committee's "Friend of The Year". Many people of Armenian background have settled in the Davidson electorate and on a number of occasions I have been pleased to raise issues on their behalf in Parliament. While Cantonese and Mandarin are the most popular non-English languages spoken in our electorate, Armenian is next, followed by Japanese and Korean.



SAFER YOUNG DRIVERS

The Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) program is designed to make our roads safer by providing young people with quality road safety information as they take to the wheel or become passengers in a vehicle driven by a young friend. I recently spoke with a school group from PLC Pymble as they undertook the program at the Honda Australia Rider Training (HART) Centre at St Ives. I encourage as many young people as possible to take this excellent course before they take the wheel.



DAVIDSON YOUTH TAKE ON THE BEAR PIT



A record equalling five teenagers from Davidson electorate will take their seats in the YMCA NSW Youth Parliament later this year. At the end of the week-long sitting, passed bills will be presented to both the Government and Opposition. I have no doubt that Lachlan Auer (at back), Thomas Goldie (in middle), Kevin Kim, Corinne Caston-Matthews (at front) and Evangeline Woodforde will make Davidson, their schools and their families proud.

COMMUNITY FORUM (IN FORESTVILLE)

The popular Davidson Community Forums will continue this month, providing constituents in the Forestville and Frenchs Forest area with an opportunity to discuss issues over morning tea. I will update people on state-based issues and respond to questions on topics of concern. The forum will be held from 10.00 to 11.30 am on Friday 18 February at The Studio, in the Forest Community Arts Centre, Forestville. Bookings are essential through the Davidson Electorate Office (Contact details below).



QUESTIONS, ANSWERS & SPEECHES

Since being elected to Parliament in 2007, I have delivered more than 200 speeches representing the Davidson electorate and asked more than 700 formal written questions of Ministers.

My speeches covered a wide range of topics, including inappropriate development and the need for improved infrastructure, transport and health services. Unfortunately the Premier's decision to prorogue Parliament early has meant that 15 of my



questions have not been, and are now unlikely to be, properly answered by the Government.

The full range of speeches, questions and available answers can be found at my website **www.jonathancodea.com.au**. The website also contains links to my latest media releases, my latest WasteWatch Newsletter, former publications and an opportunity for your feedback.

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Suite 8A, 12-18 Tryon Road Lindfield NSW 2070
PHONE 02 9880 7400
FACSIMILE 02 9880 7488
EMAIL davidson@parliament.nsw.gov.au
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