



JONATHAN O'DEA M.P.

STATE MEMBER FOR DAVIDSON

Davidson

BUILDING FOR TOMORROW

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Dear Resident,

With the State facing a budget crisis and the cost of the Royal North Shore Hospital redevelopment just blowing out by \$200 million, plans for the much promised new hospital at Frenchs Forest appear to have been shelved or seriously delayed. This is unacceptable, with Liberal MPs representing the Northern Peninsula and North Shore continuing to push the government to meet its previous promises. The State Labor Government has similarly exposed its political deceit over a rail link to Sydney's North West after ten years of promises.

Those few infrastructure projects that do progress past the promise stage are aborted or delivered late and over budget. Perhaps the worst example is the \$95million wasted on the abandoned T-Card project, initially to be delivered in 2000. The public have had enough of such incompetence, waste and mismanagement impacting on their quality of life. Whether it's late or over-crowded train services, the promised new hospital in Frenchs Forest, or overdevelopment in environmentally sensitive parts of Sydney, NSW desperately needs better government and for it to be honest, open and accountable.

On a more positive note, two weeks ago I led a delegation of local community leaders to put Ku-ring-gai planning concerns directly to new Planning Minister Kristina Keneally. It was an opportunity for the community to outline long-held concerns over inappropriate development in the Ku-ring-gai Council area, particularly the number of new dwellings planned for the area. 10,000 new dwellings are required for the area by 2031 under the NSW Metropolitan Strategy. However, there is strong evidence that the number will substantially exceed this.



Jonathan O'Dea, Barry O'Farrell and local community leaders discussing local planning issues with Minister Keneally.

Community concerns were also expressed over the lack of local conservation areas, dual occupancy controls, reduced community input and the impact of concentrated residential dwellings in designated town centres.

The town centre plans proposed to date take inadequate account of the local environment, historic characteristics and the much-valued Ku-ring-gai lifestyle. In our meeting, the Minister indicated that she would consider the material presented and accepted an invitation to personally visit Ku-ring-gai, which she did this week. We are hopeful Minister Keneally will respond positively to the strong case outlined by the Ku-ring-gai community representatives and sensibly intervene in the recent direction of the Planning Panel previously appointed by then Minister Sartor.

Yours sincerely,

NOVEMBER 2008 ISSUE





LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Thanks to all candidates who offered to serve the local community at the recent Local Government elections. Congratulations to all those who were successful. I look forward to continue working with both councils in the interests of our local communities.

In Warringah Council, new Mayor Michael Regan was elected from C Ward along with new Councillors Conny Harris, Virginia Laugesen and Julie Sutton. In B Ward Bob Giltinan, Helen Wilkins and Christine Kirch were successful, while in A Ward, Jason Falinski, Michelle Ray and Vince DeLuca were elected.

In Ku-ring-gai Council, new Mayor Elaine Malicki was elected from Comenarra Ward along with Steven Holland. In Gordon Ward, Cheryl Szatow and Elise Keays were elected while in Roseville Ward, Jennifer Anderson and Rakesh Duncombe are now the Councillors. In St Ives, Tony Hall and Carolyn Hardwick were successful and in Wahroonga Ward, Nick Ebbeck and Ian Cross were returned.



SUMMER SAFETY



*Member for Davidson, Jonathan O'Dea,
Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service,
Shane Fitzsimmons and Member for Pittwater, Rob Stokes.*

Warmer months bring increased outdoor activity and with it, the need to plan.

'Seek shade and slide on sunglasses' has been added to the well-known phrase 'slip, slop, slap'. If cooling off at the beach, swim between the flags and ensure children are always supervised near water. In hot conditions, fluid intake should be increased, especially by the elderly and very young.

Meanwhile, preparations should be made for possible bushfires by clearing combustible material from the yard and ensuring gutters are clear of leaves and other debris. I recently had the pleasure of attending the official sod turning ceremony for new fire fighting facilities at the Warringah-Pittwater Headquarters Brigade at Terrey Hills. My congratulations to all who have worked so hard to see this new \$1.3 million facility established.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOCUS

At a time of increasing population densities and high petrol prices, public transport should be improving for commuters. It is therefore disturbing that the expansion and use of Sydney's public transport system is going backwards relative to Melbourne and Brisbane.

I have attended bus forums relevant to the Davidson Electorate (Regions 12 & 14), and have been lobbying for improved bus services to areas like Belrose, Davidson and St Ives. I have also been lobbying for a better central transport stop in Memorial Avenue near the St Ives Village Green for taxis and buses.

My office has liaised with the NSW Government and both local councils about better bicycle facilities such as dedicated paths and cycle friendly intersections. At least the upgrade of Lindfield Railway Station is underway. It will provide improved access, with a long-awaited lift and new retail space due for completion in 2009. Lobbying continues for upgrades of other rail stations including Roseville.



POLLIES FOR SMALL BUSINESS

Small business plays a pivotal role in the New South Wales economy. There are approximately 372,500 small businesses in NSW, employing about 1,083,500 people.

I recently participated in the NSW Business Chamber's annual Pollies for Small Business, working at Lindfield Pharmacy and Swimart Lindfield. Both businesses have hard working and friendly employees and proprietors significantly contributing to our local community.

While I understand the frustrations and challenges of running a business (having done so previously myself), the event helps Members of Parliament better understand small business and therefore make better policy choices.

SUPPORT LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Public schools in Davidson are experiencing considerable success and increased demand due to high quality teaching and strong community support.

However, we cannot be complacent. Local population growth will place greater pressure on already strained resources. Parents and teachers, like those at Killara High School, are limited by demountable classrooms with unreliable power and science laboratories that struggle to meet occupational health and safety standards.

The NSW government must better invest for the future of our local public schools and children. I am fighting for this to occur locally.



Swimart Lindfield



Lindfield Pharmacy



EASY CARE GARDENING

Easy Care Gardening volunteers prune, weed, mulch and mow the gardens of frail aged people and younger people with disabilities and their carers within the Ku-ring-gai Council and some other areas. This service has allowed many people to stay in their own homes rather than being forced unnecessarily or prematurely to move to group homes by ensuring that their garden areas are safe and enjoyable.

Easy Care Gardening recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. Their work epitomises the best of what the community and individuals, working together, can achieve. Last year, Easy Care Gardening had 889 clients, serviced by 284 volunteers and completed a total of 18,910 gardening hours of work. As well as providing direct services to community members, Easy Care Gardening has an increasing focus on creating low-maintenance gardens, with gardening volunteers working in teams under the guidance of a leader. This empowers and assists the frail, the aged and people with disabilities to manage and tend to their own gardens while helping them to maintain their independence and the freedom that comes from controlling one's own life.



An Easy Care Gardening team at work

I commend Easy Care Gardening for its inspiring work. Let us hope that others will continue to be stirred by their example and heed the call to serve.

To volunteer, visit www.easycaregardening.org.au or write to PO BOX 502 Turramurra NSW 2074, phone: (02) 9983 1644, fax: (02) 9983 1659 or email: ecg2074@easycaregardening.org.au



NEW OFFICE LOCATION

In December the **Davidson State electorate office is moving to a new location.** The new address is Suite 8A, 12-18 Tryon Road at Lindfield, next to the Bradfield Federal electorate office of Dr Brendan Nelson.

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STREET MEETING

Meet Jonathan at his next street meeting on Saturday, 15 November from 10am - 11.30am at Glen Street Belrose, near the Glen Street Theatre / Glenrose Shopping Centre. Come and have a chat or sign a petition regarding the Frenchs Forest hospital.

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