

**PYRMONT ACTION and FRIENDS OF ULTIMO  
2023 STATE ELECTION MANIFESTO**

**Alex Greenwich (Independents) Response**

We seek a commitment from candidates for seats in the NSW Parliament in the 2023 election to support the following key issues which members of the Pyrmont and Ultimo communities have identified as of the highest importance:

- 1.0 **Restore the Ultimo Powerhouse Museum to its former glory** as a Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, by cancelling current plans to turn it into a glorified function centre focused on fashion – for half the cost.

*I worked closely with community organisation Save the Powerhouse to bring the campaign to stop the relocation of the Powerhouse Museum and redevelopment of the land to decision makers, lodging community petitions, speaking and asking questions in Parliament, and advocating directly to ministers. Our work succeeded in getting the original plans overturned and now the museum will remain at its Powerhouse home in Ultimo, with important items like the Locomotive 1 to remain.*

*My submission on the development application supported the community push for protection of an activated Harris Street which has now been incorporated in the plans. I have strongly criticised any proposal to scale back the museum and welcome retention and expansion of museum space, including new spaces capable of accommodating more international exhibitions and artefacts.*

*I acknowledge community concerns that the redevelopment will compromise the past magnificence of the Powerhouse and remain committed to ensuring that the museum continues to be, first and foremost, a world class museum attraction, that it maximises connections with the existing creative and technology industries of Pyrmont and Ultimo, and that it retains and appropriately interprets its existing permanent exhibitions.*

- 2.0 **Provide a new Yrs 7 – 12 secondary school** accessible for Pyrmont/Ultime/Glebe/Rozelle/Balmain students by re-building at the

*Pyrmont and Ultimo are earmarked for significant growth yet there are no public high schools within walking distance and local students must travel to schools that will soon be at capacity. I have repeatedly called for a new high school as part of the Blackwattle Bay redevelopment and will continue to push for this outcome. I have also called for expanding the catchment of the Inner Sydney High School to include Pyrmont and Ultimo, including as part of providing a new*



*school in the eastern suburbs to enable Inner Sydney's catchment to move west.*

- 3.0 Return bus and ferry services operating in the Inner West as a public, not privately run service** and ensure that public transport routes and stops meet the needs of residents, workers and businesses; re-evaluate the need for the proposed Western Distributor Improvements.

*I have repeatedly written to, asked questions in Parliament of and met with successive transport ministers about restoring a 389 bus stop in the western part of the central business district and providing a new stop in Pyrmont, including jointly with Lord Mayor Clover Moore. Existing stops do not meet locals' needs and force passengers, including those with mobility challenges, to walk long distances to their destinations. Similarly, I have repeatedly asked that the F10 Blackwattle Bay ferry route stop in Pyrmont.*

*While Transport for NSW has blocked proposals in the past, citing bus congestion at bus stops and ferry speeds as excuses, I worked with the minister's office to get a commitment to look at new options. Transport for NSW has agreed to consider my suggestions to move other services from the York Street bus stop or limit the 389 bus stop on York Street to off-peak periods. Transport for NSW also promised to consider an additional stop in Pyrmont for the service, which it acknowledged was needed, as well as a ferry service. I am committed to continuing to argue for the transport needs of Pyrmont.*

*I have secured a point of contact with Transport for NSW to consult with the community on potential new stops in Pyrmont and the CBD.*

*Public transport is a public service that should never be operated for profit. Operations must always be based on community need and I agree with your call for inner west bus services to be publicly operated services.*

*I opposed the proposed Western Distributor Network so-called "improvements" which represent archaic transport planning that puts fast moving traffic ahead of people and place. I will ask the minister for update given there was fierce opposition from the community, council and me as the local representative and will continue to oppose this project.*

- 4.0 Provide a 24/7 staffed Police Station** at street level at the Union Street Metro Site.

*Together with the Lord Mayor, I have asked the police minister to establish a police station in Pyrmont and I have submitted questions in Parliament to successive police ministers. The minister claims that there is no need for a station*



*in the precinct given the proximity to the Day Street station and that a new station would remove two officers from patrols, but Pyrmont is already one of the most densely populated neighbourhoods in Australia and accommodates The Star Casino which attracts thousands of visitors every day consuming alcohol and gambling. With massive redevelopment and a new metro service planned, the need for a police station is only going to grow and I am committed to continuing to argue for one.*

- 5.0 **Re-evaluate the Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy**, in consultation with local communities, to ensure that Pyrmont and Ultimo do not become an extension of the CBD, by construction of towers in low- to medium density precincts.

*I object to the significant overdevelopment proposed in the Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy and have made submissions and raised my concerns directly to ministers. While ministers tell me that the government is only interested in the key sites, the strategy is more extensive. I am especially concerned about suggestions to redevelop public housing. Pyrmont is a thriving and harmonious residential area and it should not be exploited for development profit or transformed into a mere extension of the central business district. I am committed to calling for a re-evaluation and defending the neighbourhood from redevelopment.*

- 6.0 **Review Blackwattle Bay Precinct Strategy** to ensure Pyrmont is not walled in from the West by towers and podiums and ensure vital public social and physical infrastructure is included in new plans, and delivered in a timely manner as development proceeds. Commit to provision of Public and Affordable Housing within the Precinct.

*Blackwattle Bay should be a world-class foreshore precinct that maintains strong connections between Pyrmont and the harbour, but the approved rezoning is too dense, with towers along the waterfront severing connections between Pyrmont and the water while eroding the public foreshore. The City of Sydney's design review shows that there is a way to develop the existing Sydney Fish Market land while maintaining amenity in new and existing homes and in public spaces. I have made objections to the proposals in submissions, questions in Parliament and directly to the minister. While the rezoning has been approved, as public land, it can be changed. I remain committed to working with the City of Sydney to push for a modification to reduce the plan's bulk and scale.*

- 7.0 **Commit State developer contributions raised via developments in Pyrmont** to the redevelopment of the Maybank site in Harris Street, Pyrmont as a Community Sports and Recreation Centre.



*Most Pyrmont residents live in apartments with no private open space other than a small balcony. We know that exercise is vital to health and wellbeing and Pyrmont residents rely on public facilities to participate in recreational activities. With Pyrmont's population set to increase, additional active public recreation facilities are needed and if re-elected I will advocate for state developer contributions for the redevelopment of the Maybank centre into a community sport and recreation centre.*

- 8.0 **Improve Safety, Security and residential amenity** by installing additional CCTV cameras and noise monitors in current hot spots, including The Star Casino, Doltone House function centres and the soon-to-be-re-developed Harbourside precinct.

*Pyrmont and Darling Harbour host major attractions and are particularly active late at night. Crime, anti-social behaviour and noise have been associated with some venues like The Star and Doltone House and I support the community's proposal for CCTV and noise monitoring in these locations, in addition to the Harbourside following its redevelopment. Any plans would need to comply with strict privacy protocols such as those within the City of Sydney code of practice. If re-elected, I will call for these safety measures.*

- 9.0 **Install public fast EV charging facilities in suitable sites in Pyrmont**, including on Darling Island and in and around the new Sydney Fish Markets.

*Climate change requires an urgent transition to renewable energy including for motor vehicles, but this will only happen if people feel confident that they will be able to charge their vehicles. Retrofitting parking space in apartment buildings is complicated and expensive, and this housing type is the dominant form for Pyrmont and Ultimo. The inner city needs publicly accessible EV charging stations and there are great opportunities at the new and existing Sydney Fish Market redevelopments as well as at Darling Island. If re-elected, I will push for state government investment in public access facilities at these locations.*

- 10.0 **Expedite the transfer of public lands in Pyrmont, including parks** to the City of Sydney, as stipulated in the Ultimo-Pyrmont Agreement and Jacksons Landing Master Plan, including stabilization of cliffs above public lands currently fenced off from the public.

*Neighbourhoods function best when services and planning are coordinated, with decisions made by a democratically elected body. It is a disgrace that past governments have annexed pockets of harbour land in Pyrmont to be run by bureaucracies that are not responsive to local community need and have*



*neglected their responsibilities over many years such as failing to remove contamination and not making cliff areas safe. I am committed to continuing to push whoever is in government to fulfil land management responsibilities for these areas and to transfer ownership to the democratically elected council.*

**End.**

