

2021 Election: City of Sydney Council

**Lord Mayoral candidate key position statements**

	<b>Candidate's name &amp; party:</b> Sylvie Ellsmore, The Greens
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**Snapshot of your key platforms** (maximum 220 words)

The Greens' platform is for a city for everyone, climate and environmental justice, and a grassroots and democratic council. We need a local council that leads in partnership with the community, and that is willing to take bold action to meet the scale of climate and inequality crises we face.

The Greens will ensure Council works with residents to urgently protect – and expand - public housing. The Greens' ambitious \$200 million Sydney Co-Investment Strategy will radically expand tenant-led, secure, affordable housing, with rents as low as \$100 a week. Our plan could ensure 2000 public and affordable homes are protected, converted or built. This is five times more affordable housing than the City has achieved in the last 17 years. See <https://sydneycitygreens.org.au/housing>

Council needs to move away from reliance on developers and consultants. The Greens support a Council which invests directly in the community and supports residents through a strong, accessible public service.

The Greens are committed to insourcing and expanding essential services that have been outsourced, like waste management, and giving community a direct voice and real power over how Council funds are spent, through participatory budgeting. We have a plan to expand community access to Council's town halls, community and Council-run spaces.

Focus	Candidate's Response (please write you response to the questions below)
<b>Community</b>	<p><b>Q1 GLEBE/FOREST LODGE COMMUNITY CENTRE</b></p> <p><b><i>What are your plans to provide us with a genuine centre for community activities?</i></b></p> <p>Our policy is to have fully staffed community centres across the City, with staff who have proactive community development roles as well as information and referral. We agree that the City has very few accessible, inviting, well-maintained, affordable community spaces.</p> <p>Council-run (rather than private or outsourced) spaces can facilitate flexible uses, and meet the changing needs of the community, including to support Glebe's older population.</p>
	<p><b>GLEBE COMMUNITY STRATEGY &amp; FUNDING</b></p> <p><b><i>Q2 Do you support Council reviewing the Community Strategy? Q3 Do you support a review of the current CoS grant model to fund targeted community organisations?</i></b></p> <p>Yes. The Community Services and funding Strategy is, as the Glebe Society suggests, mainly experienced via the grants it makes available and the cultural events it funds. The Greens support Council grants and cultural programs, but local communities should be empowered to have genuine input and control over Council decisions.</p> <p>A grassroots council works alongside local residents and community groups, to develop and lead the services and programs their communities need most, because communities and residents are the experts who know best what their communities need. A review of the Community Strategy should also consider the impact of a warming climate on community usage of public spaces.</p>

Environment	<p><b>BLACKWATTLE BAY OVERDEVELOPMENT</b></p> <p><b>Q4 Are you for or against the State Government’s current plans for Blackwattle Bay development? Q5 If you are against the overdevelopment are you committed to actively oppose and change it?</b></p> <p>The Greens strongly oppose this development, and are committed to working with residents to win significant changes. More information can be found at <a href="https://www.jamieparker.org/">https://www.jamieparker.org/</a>.</p>
	<p><b>Q6 WENTWORTH PARK</b></p> <p><b>6.1 Is this an important issue for you? 6.2 If you were Lord Mayor, briefly outline how would you reconcile these competing claims for the control of the future direction of Wentworth Park, and ensure that the future direction the Park recognises and continues its historical connection to Glebe?</b></p> <p>Our local communities are crying out for better access to public, recreation and green spaces, especially as the city grows. The Greens are committed to the return of Wentworth Park to the community now. This large and essential site can accommodate many community uses. Honoring our heritage and history does not require the continuation of animal cruelty. The Greens at all levels are committed to shutting down the greyhound racing industry, immediately. Read more about the Greens campaign to ensure Wentworth Park is returned to public hands at <a href="https://www.jamieparker.org/save_wentworth_park">https://www.jamieparker.org/save_wentworth_park</a></p>
Heritage	<p><b>PROTECTION OF GLEBE’S URBAN &amp; SOCIAL FABRIC</b></p>
	<p><b>Q7 Protection of low rise and broad social demography. What are your plans to protect this aspect of Glebe’s urban and social fabric?</b></p> <p><b>Q8 What is your position on rezoning for high rise in Glebe?</b></p> <p><b>Q9 Will you work for retention of Glebe’s heritage conservation areas?</b></p> <p><b>Q10 If elected will you oppose the demolition and rezoning of the Franklyn Street estate?</b></p> <p>The Greens have always stood with the community in the fight to protect our built heritage, our public housing, and for the right of working and low-income people to live in the inner city. The Greens understand that heritage protection is not just about the built or natural environment – it is about the people who hold the stories and spirit of a place.</p> <p>I grew up in Glebe, and I understand the threat that the loss of public housing, over-development, and loss of heritage, are linked. They are threats not just to historic Glebe communities, but to Glebe’s culture, diversity and future.</p> <p>We stand with residents in their campaigns to protect all Glebe’s public housing, including Franklyn St. The Council must be much stronger in standing with residents, against the State Government’s development-driven agenda.</p> <p>The Greens will use every avenue to protect Glebe heritage, communities and public housing – from Council planning instruments, direct support and investment in heritage and housing, improving recognition and celebration of our local and shared communities and history – especially First Nations communities, legislation in NSW Parliament, and campaigning on the streets.</p>
	<p><b>Q11. Development Control Plan Improvements How can these be improved?</b></p> <p>The Greens are committed to stronger protections for our built, living and social heritage through the DCP and implementing a First Nation’s ‘Designing with Country’ approach.</p>

	<p><b>SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTIAL HERITAGE</b></p> <p><b>Q12 Do you support having a heritage education program to develop and provide resources and guidelines for maintenance, restoration and sensitive development of residential heritage in Glebe/Forest Lodge?</b></p> <p><b>Q13. How would you engage with the community on developing such a program so it responds to community needs?</b></p> <p>Better protection for heritage buildings is essential, but the Greens are also strongly committed to expanding community-led programs to celebrate and connect visitors and future generations with history and heritage. We need to make our history and heritage more part of the everyday, through things like street signage, place dual naming, oral histories, space activation, artworks, walking tours and web resources.</p> <p>Particular priorities for the Greens are better recognition and celebration of First Nations and social history. Much work is needed to rebalance the past focus on colonial, British history and heritage. We need to recognise and celebrate First Nations communities, and the waves of workers, migrants, activists and women who made Glebe and Forest Lodge their home.</p>
<p><b>General</b></p>	<p><b>Q14 BRIDGE ROAD CYCLEWAY</b></p> <p><b>What is your view on Council's plans for the future of this cycleway and/or alternative proposals?</b></p> <p>A safe, connected cycleway network is essential for our growing city. The Greens support prioritising active transport – walking, cycling – and public transport, over cars where possible. As more and more people cycle, we need more clear, separated cycle paths, including along Bridge Rd if a more appropriate connection has not been identified.</p> <p>At the same time, it is important to acknowledge community concerns in the early stages of the pop-up cycleway. Proper consultation is the only way to ensure the expertise of locals – who know the streets the best because they use them everyday – are informing how streets are improved. There remain big safety issues on Bridge Rd that needs to be addressed, including the poor pedestrian crossings and poor visibility at night at key points.</p>