



Committee for North Sydney, NSW ELECTION 2023

“BROKEN PLANNING SYSTEM MUST BE FIXED”

This election is vitally important for planning and development in the electorates of North Shore, Willoughby and Lane Cove, as well as throughout NSW. The NSW planning system has become corrupted, driven by developer interests and against community and public interest, destroying city and suburban amenity. It must be completely overhauled by any incoming government.

The system is now so broken that no Council local environment plan, no planning control or planning instrument is immune from being overridden by government, driven by development interests.

Community consultation no longer has any meaning. Community submissions are constantly ignored by the Planning Department and ‘Have Your Say’ has become a cynical box ticking exercise.

The removal of planning powers from Councils, the power of the Planning Department to approve developments, the role of regional planning panels, spot rezonings and variations to planning controls for specific sites against Council and community objection, have all combined to destroy the system.

Major infrastructure projects are commenced without advanced public scrutiny or independent assessment, and without transparency or a business case.

The Committee for North Sydney cannot recommend support for either the Coalition or the Labor Party in the 2023 NSW election as both their planning policies fail to acknowledge this disastrous state of urban and suburban planning.

The Committee can only recommend a vote for those independents and minor parties who commit to wholesale change and who commit to requiring reform of the planning system as part of any agreement to support one of the major parties to form government.

We invite independent candidates to adopt the following commitment:

"I agree the planning system is broken and I will work collaboratively with colleagues on the crossbench to drive substantial reform of the NSW planning system and hold the government to account on this matter."

The Committee invites all independents and minor parties to publicly confirm this commitment which will be acknowledged on our website.

Professor Geoff Hanmer

President, Association for the Committee for North Sydney

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